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DEATH OF A PRINCESS

**TODAY THE MISSING PREGNANCY FILES**

PAGES 15-17

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Report: Page 4  
Leading article  
Page 19

## Palace wants speedy inquest on Princess 'for sake of the boys'

BY ANDREW PIERCE  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MEMBERS of the Royal Family are pressing for a swift inquest into the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, to try to end the speculation and conspiracy theories surrounding her last hours.

Buckingham Palace is increasingly anxious for the French authorities to complete their criminal investigation quickly to enable the British inquest to go ahead.

The Princess might have survived had she been taken straight to hospital rather than treated at the scene after her car crashed in a Parisian underpass last August.

While the Royal Family will not publicly complain about the time that investigation is taking, the Palace is clearly deeply concerned about the delay.

With the boys' interests in mind, we have made clear we want no delays in bringing this to a conclusion sooner rather than later.

But Michael Burgess, the deputy coroner to the Royal Household, conceded yesterday that the inquest might still not have been held by the anniversary of the crash.

The inquest with Dr John Burton, coroner to the Royal Household, said: "This is a high-profile case and everything has to be weighed up very carefully."

## Peers vote to curb price cuts by papers

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, JAMES LANDALE AND POLLY NEWTON

THE Government was defeated in the Lords last night as peers voted to restrict price-cutting campaigns by national newspapers.

The Lords voted by 121 votes to 93, a majority of 28, for an amendment to the Competition Bill which aimed at preventing any newspaper abusing a "dominant" position in the market to "eliminate" any rival publications.

director of Mirror Group Newspapers, which is a substantial shareholder in *The Independent*. The move was also backed by a senior Tory peer, Viscount Astor, a former Tory whip, and Lord Ackner, a prominent Law Lord.

Lord McNally said: "The present policy of *The Times* does not make sense unless it is to clear the field of two major competitors—*The Daily Telegraph* and *The Independent*."

The amendment was fiercely opposed by the Government which was keen to avoid having to use its Commons majority to overturn the move when the Bill leaves the Lords.

The Competition Bill is designed to bring British competition law up-to-date and in line with European legislation. Under its provisions, the Director General of Fair Trading would have new powers to clamp down on anti-competitive action and abuses of dominant market positions.

After the vote Lord McNally said: "I think it is now a stronger bill and I sincerely hope that the Government will listen to the House of Lords."

For the Government, Lord Simon of Highbury, the Minister for Competition, said the Government believed that it was wrong in principle to have different "prohibitions" for different sectors.

"Prohibition is a very serious matter. The question of whether a specific practice is or is not anti-competitive is not a matter about which I can properly express an opinion."

Lord Simon insisted that the Competition Bill would enhance competition and enhance consumer choice by lowering prices. And he admitted that predatory pricing was bad for competition and the consumer. But he insisted: "This Bill meets the Government's commitment to introduce legislation against an abuse of dominance in the market including predatory pricing. There is no case for using this Bill for targeting one sector of the market or one company."

Debate, page 9



Rivals to the Spice Girls: the All Saints — Shaznay, left, Natalie, Nicola and Melanie — are thought by some to be the new top all-girl band

## Anger at absent Brit pop bands

BY CAROL MIDDLELEY

THE organisers of the Brit Awards last night attacked the sneering "hypocrisy" of bands who refused to perform at the ceremony to maintain street credibility.

Four out of five best group nominees — The Verve, Oasis, Radiohead and Prodigy — declined to appear at last night's Docklands ceremony in London. Most pleaded prior engagements.

Arriving at the awards ceremony last night, Cherie Blair, the Prime Minister's wife, was confronted by protesters about the sacking of a worker by a Polygram subsidiary. One demonstrator vaulted a barrier to talk to Mrs Blair. The man was detained by police. Other protesters were held at bay.

It was also an unhappy occasion for the Spice Girls, taunted this week by claims that they have been usurped by the new all-girl band All Saints.

Criticising the bands who snubbed last night's event Malcolm Gerrie, Brits' television show executive producer, said: "Why do concerns? Why do interviews for NME? Why do promotion at all? I do think there is an underlying element of hypocrisy."

## Railtrack offers cheaper link

Railtrack has put forward plans for a cut-price Channel Tunnel rail link as its price for rescuing the project.

It would save £2.7 billion by ending the high-speed section short of London, avoiding more than 12 miles of tunnelling. Page 27

## West Indies go one up

Carl Hooper guided West Indies to a three-wicket victory over England in the second Test in Trinidad.

His captain, Brian Lara, described his unbeaten 94 as "the best innings he has ever played". West Indies lead 1-0 in the series. Page 52

## Child support to be simplified

A simple tax rate for child maintenance payments is being considered as part of a reform of the Child Support Agency to be announced in the summer, Frank Field, Welfare Reform Minister, told MPs. Page 2

## Saddam 'has big stocks of Agent 15 nerve gas'

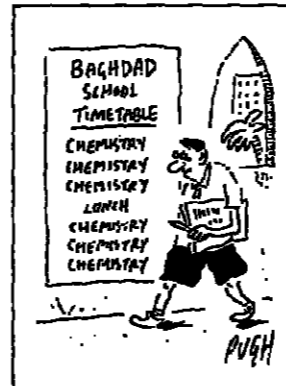
BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein has built up big stocks of the nerve gas Agent 15, which is designed to stupefy enemy forces, the Defence Secretary told MPs last night.

The gas — which can be fired from missiles or put in water supplies — causes weakness, dizziness, disorientation, hallucinations and loss of coordination.

Iraq's stockpile came to light through intelligence reports at the end of last year. The Ministry of Defence was alerted by a reference in an Iraqi document which said that Iraq was carrying out laboratory research on the agent.

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said that Iraq had had Agent 15 during the Gulf War in 1991, although there was no confirmed evidence that it had used it. But he believed that the fact that Saddam had yet another element in his chemical and biological armoury should re-



move all doubts about the need to force him to allow UN weapons inspectors to resume their work.

"Among all the other horrifying weapons that Saddam has used in the past, there is now another agent — Agent 15 — the like of which should make most of us wonder why on earth there is any equivoca-

Border sealed, page 13  
Leading article, page 19

## The secret of Enoch Powell's early love poetry

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

A BATCH of Enoch Powell's early love poems was at the centre of a literary mystery last night after a senior Church of England clergyman claimed they were addressed to a man.

The politician, who died on Sunday, had suffered anguish over his close friendship with an unidentified man while he was an undergraduate at Cambridge, according to Canon Eric James, a presenter of Radio 4's *Thought for the Day*, who is Extra Preacher to the Queen.

Mr James, who was chaplain of Trinity College, Cambridge some

years after Mr Powell was a student there, said that Mr Powell had confided in him about the relationship a decade ago, but he had sworn to keep it secret until after his death.

In a letter to *The Times* today Mr James recalls a meeting with Mr Powell in 1988: "The conversation turned, not surprisingly, to A.E. Housman's influence on Powell at Trinity College, which, he made clear, was related not only to Housman's poetry and classical scholarship but to his understanding of Housman's homosexual condition."

"Powell gave me that day a signed copy of *First Poems*, drawing my

attention to certain of those "fifty short lyrics" in which he tried to put into words what a homosexual friendship had meant to him."

Mr James adds: "I promised Enoch I would not disclose what he had said to me about the homosexual basis of certain of his poems until after his death. Then it would be a matter of literary history."

Mr James told *The Times* last night that he believed Mr Powell might have opened up to him because he was familiar with the Cambridge scene at the time. "He said: 'The most painful thing of my early life was that relationship,'" Mr James said he did

not reveal the man's identity nor even whether he was at Cambridge.

The poem reads:  
*'Tis true I loved you from the first:  
Yet had I turned away,  
I should have soon forgot my thirst  
And happier been to-day.  
For now your face is graven deep  
Upon my inward sight.  
And when I wake and when I sleep,  
I see you day and night:  
And since our parting is decreed  
By laws we cannot break,  
The severed tissues long will bleed  
And long the wound will ache.'*

Letters, page 19

TV & RADIO	50.51
WEATHER	26
CROSSWORDS	2A-32
LETTERS	19
OBITUARIES	21
LIBBY PURVES	18
ARTS	34-36
CHESS & BRIDGE	46
COURT & SOCIAL	20
SPORT	46-50, 52
LAW	39, 41
LAW REPORT	45

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2 HOME NEWS

# MP's whiter-than-white suit sets alarm bell ringing

War must be imminent: Martin Bell's suit is getting whiter. At this rate, reporters will have to bring sunglasses into the Press Gallery.

Once, the attire of the Independent victor at Taton could have been called cream. But at Defence Questions yesterday, the former BBC war correspondent's suit was positively dazzling. It was hard to look at him without squinting. Those Dulux charts might have described it as Double White, or perhaps "white with a hint

of white". A narrow, pale green tie lent the ensemble the look of a small caterpillar on an anguished lily.

And what a difference a weekend makes! Last week MPs could hardly wait to storm Baghdad. But the weekend press seems to have unnerved them. "Cause for pause" was how Diane Abbott (Lab, Hackney N & Stoke Newington) put it.

Ms Abbott is on the Left and fairly predictable. So is Harry Cohen (Lab, Leyton & Wansstead), whose defiant cry to the



Defence Secretary yesterday ("This is not worth the life of a single British soldier") was only a more confident version of his usual line.

No, what was new was a lowering of temperature among hawkish MPs. The government front bench and its supporters seemed almost to be backpedalling.

A humble sketchwriter cannot say why. Policy may be unchanged. Perhaps the Secretary of State, George Robertson, simply talks in a less gung-ho way than his boss. Or

maybe an attempt is being made to bring backbenchers on board by persuading them that war would be a last resort.

But Mr Robertson used the phrase "last resort" four times, and with great emphasis. "Option of last resort" was his assurance to Ms Abbott. "Last option" were the words he chose for David Winnick (Lab,

Walsall N). Answering the Liberal Democrat spokesman, Menzies Campbell, who intervened to stiffen ministers' resolve, Mr Robertson did not quite rise to this, but explained why the previous invasion had been right.

When his Tory Shadow, Sir George Young, insisted pallidly that the allied threat must be "credible" because "a principle is at stake", Mr Robertson agreed, but added that this was "an option of last resort, if diplomacy fails". The "if" was emphasised, too, to Crispin Blunt (C, Reigate). "If it comes to..." and "if this diplomacy fails..."

Speaking as one who was "on the front line last time", Mr Bell told ministers that there should be "no action without some sort of coalition of opinion, at home, among the Allies, and among the Arab states". Mr Blunt was concerned there needed to be "absolutely clear political objectives". Mr Winnick insisted it was "important to spell out what our objectives are".

Murmuring that we do need to be clear what we are doing has become for some MPs a diplomatic way of complaining that Britain and America do not seem to be clear; and for others a code-phrase for questioning whether we ought to be doing it in the first place. To do it in the first place, to all, Mr Robertson kept insisting he hoped we would not have to do it (whatever it was) today.

We now know, he revealed, that Saddam possesses "Agent 15". Apparently this causes "weakness, disorientation, dizziness and loss of co-ordination". People become zombies.

I do hope this horror is not unleashed on the government back benches. For how would we tell?

## CSA rethink will scrap complex payment system

Ministers believe a flat-rate levy for absent fathers will end current confusion, reports Jill Sherman

A SIMPLE tax rate for child maintenance payments is being considered by ministers as part of a radical reform of the Child Support Agency to be announced in the summer.

Frank Field, the Welfare Reform Minister, said yesterday that a flat-rate levy linked to the earnings of the absent parent could replace the present complicated formula of assessing maintenance. Speaking during a Commons debate on the Child Support Agency, Mr Field pledged that the Government would come forward with proposals before June to ensure a "fair and efficient" child support system.

He told MPs there was a "crunch question" to be faced in the coming months. "We will have to choose at some stage whether we are going to have a complicated formula or move to something much simpler — a possible single tax rate."

Officials said later that one option is to link rates with income bands. A father earning £200 a week for example might pay £50 a week in maintenance payments, while one on £250 a week might pay £70. Under the present scheme a variety of factors are taken into account including income

of both parents, housing costs, personal allowances for food, gas and electricity, and travel costs.

The debate, launched by the Liberal Democrats, came as single mothers turned out in force in Westminster to support the call for change.

Opening the debate, David Rendel, the Liberal Democrat spokesman argued that the Child Support Agency should be abolished. "The CSA has failed in its objectives and must go," he said. Mr Rendel called for a system of mediation to arrive at voluntary agreements backed by a family court or tribunal to enforce

fair decisions when disputes arise.

Mr Field agreed that the present system was too complex, and that anomalies such as hardships for second families had to be sorted out. A government amendment tabled by the Prime Minister and five senior Cabinet colleagues was highly critical of the agency but did not commit Labour to abolishing the CSA. It said the body was introduced in a "hasty and ill-thought-out manner" by the previous Government.

Outside the Commons, mothers from the Campaign Against the Child Support Act were flanked by placards and banners calling for the CSA to be scrapped.

Kim Sparrow, 35, a single mother of one from northwest London, said: "Ever since the CSA was introduced it has been about cutting the single mothers' benefit."

"Many mothers do not want the fathers to be contacted because they are scared of them or don't want them in their lives. But the CSA enforces a £20 cut in their benefit if they refuse to give the father's name because they are seen to be failing to cooperate," she added.



Field: seeking greater fairness and efficiency



On tour: Harriet Harman visiting a company which employs disabled people in Middlesbrough yesterday

## Harman softens benefits blow

Reductions in disability allowance will be checked by an independent assessor, reports Nicholas Watt

HARRIET HARMAN responded last night to growing anger within Labour ranks at the pace of welfare reform by announcing a safeguard to prevent disability benefits being cut unfairly.

In the first sign that the Government was prepared to bow to criticism, the Social Security Secretary said that an independent test would be introduced before anybody faced a cut in Disability Living Allowance, one of the principal benefits. Ms Harman acted after strong criticism for allowing the benefits of thousands of disabled people to be reduced in error or cut altogether. A review initiated by the last Government and known as the Benefit Integrity Project was designed to crack down on people who claim disability allowances after their condition has improved.

The Tories estimated that £0.5 billion of the £8 billion a year spent on the allowance was being paid out to people who were no longer eligible. But research has shown that 20 per cent of claimants who appealed against cuts in their benefits should not have been targeted.

Speaking in the North East last night, Ms Harman said: "We are going to introduce a change into the benefit integrity project. Once the suggestion has been made that somebody with a disability is going to have their benefit reduced at that point an independent extra check will be made to make sure that the decision is

right." However, Ms Harman made clear that she was still committed to the review. She added: "We want to be sure that people who are entitled to benefits because they have a disability get those benefits. We also have to be sure that people who are not entitled to benefits do not get them."

The allowance is paid out in sliding scales to help to pay for care and to help with mobility. The care allowance is paid out at a higher rate of £49.50 a week, a middle rate of £33.10 and a lower rate of £13.15. The mobility allowance is paid out at a higher rate of £34.60 and a lower rate of £3.15. The review is targeting people claiming the higher mobility rate and the higher and middle rates for care.

Speaking later at a welfare roadshow in Middlesbrough, Ms Harman said that the Government would tackle discrimination through a Disability Rights Commission.

For those disabled people who are unable to work I want to reinforce the clear assurances given by Tony Blair that under this Labour Government no one in genuine need will be denied the support they need to live with dignity and independence in the community," she said.

She said the reforms would amount to the "biggest assault on poverty and worklessness". She said that the welfare state was falling Britain because it did not match the needs of the modern world. A third of children were being raised in poverty and yet government spending had increased by £43 billion in real terms since 1979.

It also emerged that the Government is preparing to launch an £8 million advertising campaign to attract more employers to its New Deal scheme to help more youngsters of welfare and into work. Mr Blair is hosting a breakfast for leading industrialists today and tomorrow at Downing Street.

Officials say there has been a good response, with big firms such as Sainsbury's, British Aerospace, British Steel and WH Smith involved.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Age limit on jobs is ruled unfair

An age limit barring the over-65s from claiming unfair dismissal has been rejected by an industrial tribunal, which ruled that British law was incompatible with the Treaty of Rome. The tribunal at Croydon ruled unanimously that James Nash, 69, formerly a warehouse manager, could bring a claim against the Marsh/Roe Group in London. His case, supported by the Camden Tribunal and Rights Unit, argued that more men than women continued working past the age of 65, so the age limit amounted to indirect sexual discrimination against men.

#### Hot drink claims

Lawyers have obtained legal aid to study the viability of three claims against McDonald's from people who say hot drinks caused serious burns. One claimant, a disabled man, says he suffered third-degree burns after coffee spilt in his lap. McDonald's said safety was its priority. An American woman who was scalded by McDonald's coffee was awarded \$2.9 million, reduced on appeal in 1994 to \$640,000.

#### RUC proposal

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, yesterday unveiled a consultative paper aimed at strengthening the powers of the Police Authority, the body that oversees the Royal Ulster Constabulary, as a first step to reforming the force and making it more accountable to the public. Dr Mowlam also outlined ways of developing partnerships between the police and the community.

#### Blair's mentor

Tony Blair's former housemaster at Fettes College in Edinburgh, cited by the Prime Minister as a major influence in his life, has been appointed chairman of the National Heritage Memorial Fund. Eric Anderson, 61, now Reckon, will be responsible for directing £250 million a year of lottery money to heritage projects. He succeeds Baron Rothschild.

#### Bland evidence

Hamilton Bland, the BBC's "voice of swimming", has given evidence to the solicitor investigating allegations of a conflict of interest over National Lottery money awarded to Amateur Swimming Association pools, despite suffering a brain haemorrhage. The solicitor, a partner at City of London lawyers Herbert Smith, will present his findings to the ASA on February 27. They will be made public.

#### Hamed's princess

Prince Naseem Hamed, the world featherweight boxing champion, married his girlfriend, Eleasha Elphinstone, 24, a hairdresser, in a ceremony so private that even the bride's mother was not present. A spokesman for the boxer, 23, who lives in Sheffield, said the wedding ceremony had been carried out in a traditional Muslim fashion after the bride's conversion to Islam.

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## Old sewers 'ruining water supplies'

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

CRUMBLING sewer systems are rendering vast water resources under Britain's big cities unusable. The claim is made by researchers, MPs, health experts and organisations who have launched a campaign to accelerate the repair of the ageing network.

Green and wildlife groups believe tapping the huge underground aquifers and boreholes below cities like London, Liverpool and Birmingham, could reduce the demand on the nation's rivers and wetlands and help meet shortages due to drought.

But a report, compiled by Stephen Battersby of the University of Surrey's Robens Centre for Environmental Health, says effluent from damaged sewers is leaking into groundwater supplies.

It is says in places like London, where the water table is rising since the departure of heavy industry from the capital, groundwater cannot be extracted to meet water shortages because it is too polluted.

The Campaign for the Renewal of Older Sewerage Systems (Cross) estimates that 2,400 Km of main sewer pipes are in need of urgent attention. The group says that for every £1 spent on leaking water pipes less than 10p is spent on sewers.

## Benn attacks Blair cult of the soundbite

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BENN accused the Prime Minister of systematically repudiating the beliefs of Clement Attlee last night. The veteran leftwinger always maintains that he does not favour personal attacks, but delivering the 16th annual Attlee lecture he left his audience in no doubt that in his view Tony Blair does not match up to the "greatest leader the Labour party has ever had".

Attlee was a man of character and integrity "whose answers, unlike today's shallow soundbites, were always clear," said Mr Benn, who spoke of "crude capitalism" emerging under another emerging under another name, and accused Mr Blair of defying the UN Charter in his support for air strikes against Iraq.

Such remarks, coming from a less well-known Labour figure, might have attracted calls for disciplinary action, but Mr Benn is one of a group of virtually licensed dissenters. There is no desire to make a martyr of him.

Mr Benn said: "Today all Clement Attlee stood for is being systematically repudiated by New Labour, but we would do well to compare what he believed in with what is now presented to us as the radical centre of British politics supposedly committed to modernising our society."

"Full employment, the welfare state, social equality, the NHS, free at the point of use, and full trade union rights are now regularly denounced as Old Labour, the party of tax and spend, never to return. Clement Attlee was a signatory of the United Nations Charter, and he flew to Washington, in 1950, to warn President Truman against the use of atomic weapons in Korea. A few days ago another Labour Prime Minister flew to Washington to pledge his full support for President Clinton in launching air strikes against Iraq, in clear contravention of the UN Charter."

Mr Attlee did not possess charisma "which is now regarded as a pre-requisite for those seeking office, but in 1945 he defeated a man who certainly did possess it [Winston Churchill]. He was a man of character and integrity."



Attlee: "man of character and integrity," said Benn.

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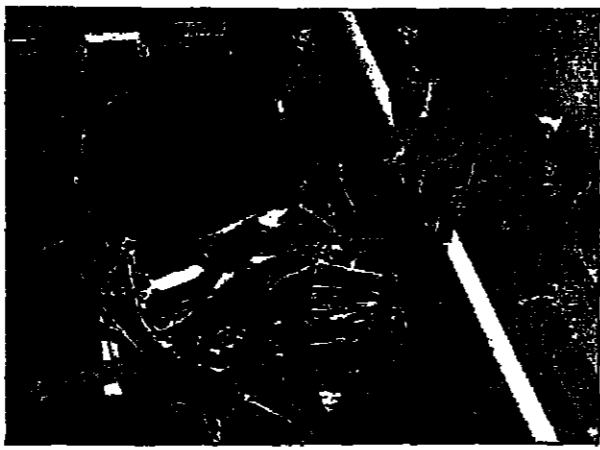
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# Witness says Diana was unconscious

Mystery motorcyclist may have been found, reports Ben Macintyre

DIANA, Princess of Wales was unconscious from the moment her car hit a concrete pillar in a Paris underpass, according to new testimony from a motorcyclist, who claims that he came to her aid within seconds of the crash.

Eric Petel saw no other vehicles in the tunnel, despite forensic evidence suggesting that the Mercedes had collided with a Fiat Uno. However, his testimony, if confirmed, provides important clues to the speed of the Mercedes, the time gap between the crash and the arrival of the pursuing photographers and the Princess's medical condition immediately after the accident.



The Mercedes in the aftermath of the fatal accident

M Petel told *Voici* magazine that he was driving his motorcycle at about 110kph when, in his rearview mirror, he saw the Mercedes flashing its headlights at the entrance to the road tunnel beneath the

Place de l'Alma. "I got the impression that the car was still far behind me." At almost the same moment the heavy limousine shot past him. When he heard the "deafening noise" of the impact, M Petel,

28, said he initially thought his motorcycle had hit something. "I looked down at my motor; there was nothing, I then lifted my head and saw the end of the accident.

"From the position I was in,

I could see the whole tunnel, right to the exit," M Petel said. "As far as I'm concerned, there was no other vehicle in front of the Mercedes." However, he conceded: "It was dark, you couldn't see much.

"I saw a woman. She had slid off the back seat. Her head was resting between the front seats. Her back was turned to me, I could see only her hair. I was afraid the car would burst into flames. I went into the car and pulled the woman upright, putting her head back on the rear armrest. Blood was flowing from above her right ear.

"I brushed aside the hair in front of her face. Her eyelids fluttered, but she did not open her eyes. I asked her whether she was all right, but she did not answer. It was then that I realised this was Lady Di."

Tom Sancton and Scott MacLeod, the two *Time* magazine journalists who have published a book on their investigations into the crash, have pointed out that none of the other witnesses who arrived immediately after the crash saw anyone opening the car door.

M Petel said he drove his motorcycle the wrong way out of the tunnel to the nearest telephone box and called the police. Several witnesses have said they saw a motorcyclist leaving the scene of the accident.

"If this is the guy, that answers one of the questions, which is the identity of this mysterious motorcycle driver," Mr Sancton said yesterday. However, he added that *Voici* routinely pays for stories and that several "witnesses" have come forward to sell information that has turned out to be bogus.

Book extracts, pages 15-17



Eric Petel, who claims that he was first person to arrive after the crash in the tunnel

## French concerned over treatment at accidents

FRANCE'S Health Minister conceded yesterday that there was a debate within the French medical establishment over on-site treatment in emergencies, such as that given to Diana, Princess of Wales, because of the delay in getting victims to hospitals.

Surgeons in particular have been critical of the treatment. Bernard Kouchner said. However, there were no dissenting voices in the case of the Princess. "Unfortunately, there was nothing more to do."

The minister was answering questions at a luncheon at the Anglo-American Press Association of Paris. He said he did

not believe a report that rescue workers spent up to 45 minutes stabilising the condition of the Princess at the accident site before taking her to hospital. The report is contained in a new book, *Death of a Princess: The Investigation*, by *Time* magazine correspondents Tom Sancton and Scott MacLeod, which is being serialised in *The Times*. They claim that, from the time of the accident, 30 minutes after midnight, it took an hour and 45 minutes to get the Princess to a hospital operating room.

The Princess, who suffered massive bleeding from the left pulmonary vein, was taken to

La Pitié Salpêtrière hospital. She was pronounced dead at 4am. The book quotes physicians who claim that her life might have been saved with speedier and more competent hospital care.

Frederic Mailliez, the doctor who treated the Princess at the scene, when asked yesterday if she would have died if she had been rushed to hospital, said: "It was hopeless. There was nothing we could do to save her." He told ITN: "I couldn't have done anything else than what I have done on this accident and I think any doctor would have done exactly the same thing."

## Dodi 'cash for baby' claim

By STEPHEN FARRELL

THE woman who claims Dodi Fayed fathered her child said yesterday that he gave her £75,000. Diane Holliday, a hotel consultant, denied accusations by Mohamed Al Fayed that her story was a "cruel and wicked lie" to trick him into believing her 15-month-old daughter Marni was his grandchild. Scotland

Yard is investigating allegations of deception over £5,000 that the Harrods owner gave her while checking her claims.

Mrs Holliday, 36, from Little Saxham, Suffolk, said yesterday that she had a five-month romance with Dodi Fayed after meeting him at the Ritz Hotel, Paris, in December 1995 and gave the baby up for adoption in

America soon after the birth on November 20, 1996.

She said: "Dodi was Marni's father. I have a DNA test to prove it and Mohamed Al Fayed knows this full well. Mohamed organised the test."

She claimed Dodi Fayed gave her £50,000 when she planned an abortion and a further £25,000 when he learnt she had given birth.

## Fine for nursery where boy died

By A CORRESPONDENT

THE owner of a nursery where a toddler drowned in a shallow pool of water was fined £4,000 yesterday for breaching safety rules.

Carolyn Brown, 24, was also ordered to pay costs of more than £2,400 by magistrates in Blackburn, Lancashire, after she pleaded guilty to three charges brought by the Health and Safety Executive and Lancashire County Council. She was running Hilltop Bunnies Nursery in Belmont, near Bolton, in July last year, when Alex Rae, 20 months, was found unconscious on a tarpaulin covering an ornamental pond.

His mother, Catriona Rae, 38, from Chorley, Lancashire,

said the fine was a disgrace and called for childcare to be more tightly policed.

An inspection by the Health and Safety Executive found the nursery premises were unsafe because of the 20ft by 10ft pond and a wall with a drop behind it.

John Batty, for the prosecution, said that Miss Brown was the only qualified person present when there should have been at least three. Also, she was looking after nine children of whom four were under two, when the permitted number was three under two.

A verdict of accidental death was recorded at an inquest last month.

## BA workers contest race-hate sackings

By ADAM FRESCO

FOUR British Airways workers carried out a racist campaign against Irish and Asian colleagues, awarding Nazi-style Iron Crosses to others who participated in their abuse, a tribunal was told yesterday.

Barry Fitzgerald, Christopher Mason and Malcolm Clark, all flight operations workers at Heathrow, also presented a black spot to other employees if they had been friendly to people of ethnic minorities, the tribunal in Croydon was told.

All three were sacked in September 1996 after their alleged regime of abuse and victimisation came to light. The men are claiming unfair

dismissal against BA, complaining that the wrong way out of the tunnel to the nearest telephone box and called the police. Several witnesses have said they saw a motorcyclist leaving the scene of the accident.

"If this is the guy, that answers one of the questions, which is the identity of this mysterious motorcycle driver," Mr Sancton said yesterday. However, he added that *Voici* routinely pays for stories and that several "witnesses" have come forward to sell information that has turned out to be bogus.

"There was a practice that I will refer to as black-spotting. It was complained of and found that a practice, habit or custom had grown up whereby 'employees', particularly Fitzgerald and Mason, produced on their computer and presented to other employees a black spot if they had been friendly to people of ethnic minorities, principally Irish."

All four men applied to the industrial tribunal, but Mr Stead is in the process of withdrawing his claim.

BA maintains that "there is a wealth of material" to support the claims that the three men have campaigned against foreign colleagues. The hearing continues.

## The man with money to burn

By A CORRESPONDENT

AN ACCOUNTANT with a rich wife stole money they did not need, then burnt thousands of pounds in his coal fire and flushed more cash down his lavatory.

Alex Cope, 41, was jailed for two years yesterday for embezzling more than £64,000 from his employers at a computer company, but Cardiff Crown Court was told that he had hardly benefited.

Mary Parry-Evans, in mitigation, said: "Cope did not need the money, as his wife earned a salary of £80,000 and had inherited a large amount. This is a very unusual case. We are not dealing with a normal criminal. He discarded this money in a bizarre

manner to punish himself. He wanted to be caught to atone."

Cope, who was suffering from depression, transferred money from the account of B and G Software, of Afonmouth, Gwent, into his gold-card account. He used some to pay off debts, then destroyed more cash and gave thousands more to charity. Finally, he confessed to his employer.

The consultant accountant, of St Andrews, Bristol, admitted eight thefts and one attempted theft. Judge Peter Jacobs told him: "It is clear you are not a normal criminal. But the effects of these thefts on this small business must have been devastating."

## It was a bad race, not fraud, jockey tells trial

By LIN JENKINS

THE champion jockey Kieren Fallon yesterday denied deliberately losing in a race to gain an advantage in another.

The jockey, who rode 204 winners last season, told a High Court libel jury that he had expected to win a race in which he was accused of cheating by *The Sporting Life*. He said his ride, Top Cees, came fifth because of misjudgment rather than lack of effort.

Mr Fallon and the trainers Jack and Lynda Ramsden are suing MGN Limited, publisher of *The Sporting Life*, over what they say was a "savage onslaught" in the paper in May 1995.

The jockey told the court that Top Cees had been going so well in the 1 1/4-mile Swaffham Handicap at Newmarket in 1995 that he had thought "the race was mine at any time".

The race, however, had begun fast and near the finish there were no gaps through which to get to the front. When there were, his horses could not quicken. "Tired horses were rolling around all over the place. I could not ride a proper race," Mr Fallon said.

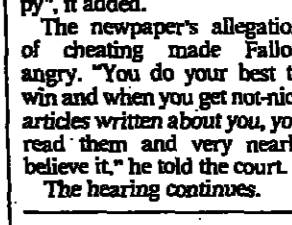
Weeks later, horse and jockey won the £40,000 Chester Cup and the day after that victory *The Sporting Life* accused Mr Fallon of cheating in an editorial headlined "Content for the punter".

The paper said his actions had been "effectively condoned" by the Jockey Club, which had exonerated him at an inquiry. The jockey, Mrs Ramsden, trainer of Top Cees, and her husband, a successful gambler, were "merely exploiting a system that rolls over and lets them tickle its tummy like some sappy puppy", it added.

The newspaper's allegation of cheating made Fallon angry. "You do your best to win and when you get not-nice articles written about you, you read them and very nearly believe it," he told the court.

The hearing continues.

Racing, page 45



Fallon: was confident of victory early in race

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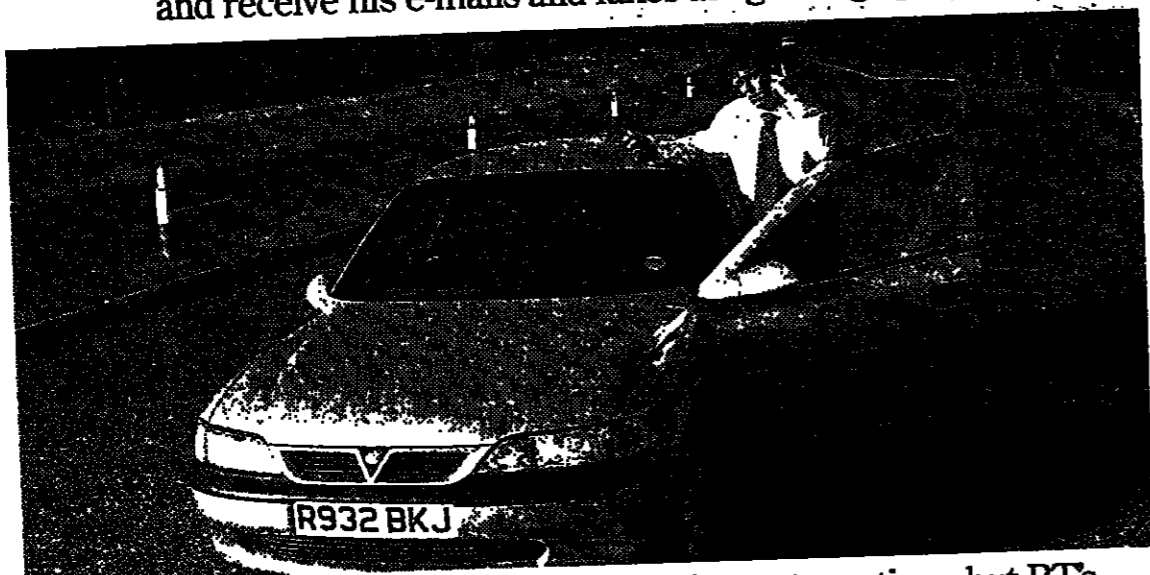
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## Inquiry as girl finds foetus in cupboard at school

By Gillian Harris

AN INVESTIGATION is under way after the discovery of a preserved human foetus in a school science laboratory.

The foetus, with the umbilical cord attached, was in a jar in the laboratory cupboard. It was found by a 13-year-old pupil at Douglas Ewart High School in Newton Stewart, Dumfries and Galloway.

After he was alerted to the foetus's existence, the head teacher, Jim Judge, called the police, who removed it from the school.

Kenny MacLeod, director of education at Dumfries and Galloway council, said yesterday: "It has been established that a preserved human foetus has been in the school's biology department for some 15 years. It is understood that the specimen was prepared at least 50 years ago." Mr MacLeod added that the education department was also carrying out its own investigation.

Luisa McGuffie, who made the discovery, said that at first she was curious about the foetus. She and her friends went back into the laboratory when the science teacher had gone to get a better look. "The thought of this wee life lying in that jar was just horrible."

A spokesman for the school said that pupils of Luisa's age would not have been expected to study the foetus. It was kept for children sitting GSEs and Higher examinations. Brian Wilson, the Scottish Office Minister for Education, said yesterday: "This is unacceptable and I will await the education authority's findings with interest."



The forever young ones: Sir Cliff Richard, 57, launched his 40th anniversary tour in Sydney yesterday with a little help from his old friend Olivia Newton-John, 49. The evergreen singers, who met in the Sixties, had two top-30 singles together

## All work and no play makes Jill a stressed girl

Women overwhelmingly believe that men still get the better deal out of life, reports Ian Murray

WOMEN say their life is all work, little play and even less passion. They are depressed about their looks, worried about their health, frequently stressed and overwhelmingly believe that men have the better deal in life.

The findings are from replies sent in by 5,000 women to a survey conducted by the magazine *Top Santé* in association with Bupa, the private health insurer. They show that 81 per cent of women think they are expected to perform far too many roles and that only 19 per cent are interested in a career.

Nevertheless 7 per cent of those who answered the survey were directors and 33 per cent were in management. Overall, 74 per cent had a full-time or part-time job, 21 per cent were housewives and 5 per cent were students.

Financial pressures meant that, even though 78 per cent would like to give up work, 52 per cent of those with children said they would welcome the chance to carry on with their careers on a job-share basis. About 30 per cent said they would like to stay at home with their children all the time. Only 12 per cent said they would opt to send their children to a day nursery and 3 per cent would employ a full-time nanny if they had the means.

Some 35 per cent of the women took at least nine days off work each year because of stress, and a further 44 per cent said they frequently felt "stressed out". Half of them said their jobs caused them the greatest stress and another 42 per cent cited money worries.

Relationships with their partner or husband worried 36 per cent of them and 30 per cent were concerned about their children.

Only 20 per cent of the women believed that their husband was a "new man" and 52 per cent of those working full time said they did most of the housework. Men helped out equally in only 10 per cent of households.

The men also underperformed in the bedroom. Only 20 per cent of the women said their sex life was fantastic while 53 per cent said they were "still waiting for the sex of their dreams". Some 63 per cent said their partner was not a wonderful lover.

On average the women had sex seven times a month and half of them said they wanted more. Ten per cent said they regularly faked an orgasm to please their man, while 60 per cent said they never did. Only 25 per cent said they thought about sex daily and 58 per cent said they did so "occasionally". According to the maga-

zine, "most women are too exhausted by life to think about sex".

Some 88 per cent of women said they felt depressed about their looks, and only 6 per cent claimed that they were very attractive. Being overweight was a major problem, with 67 per cent unhappy about their shape and 66 per cent lacking confidence when naked. Half believed they were overweight and 77 per cent said they had dieted at some time in their life. With 73 per cent believing that men preferred slim women, the survey found that 68 per cent loathed their waistline and 57 per cent disliked their thighs.

The highest proportion (56 per cent) were happy about their eyes and 38 per cent with their hair. Only 10 per cent rarely wore makeup, while 53 per cent put it on daily.

There was widespread disillusionment with the NHS: 64 per cent believing it had deteriorated in the past 20 years and 89 per cent willing to pay an extra penny in the pound in tax to improve it. Some 75 per cent, however, believed that ill-health could be overcome by a positive mental attitude and 56 per cent said they had visited an alternative medicine practitioner such as an osteopath.

Asked who their health role model was, a large majority said Diana, Princess of Wales was seen as the most inspirational woman in the world, followed by Cindy Crawford. Mel Gibson was voted the most inspirational man in looking and feeling fit.



Gibson: an inspiration to keep fit and healthy

Leading article, page 19

## Vitamin clue to beating cancers

By Ian Murray  
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

SUNLIGHT and salmon could help in the treatment of breast cancer, researchers have discovered. Both keep up the level of vitamin D in the body, and trials have shown this is crucial in reducing the growth of cancer cells.

Barbara Mawer, Professor of Bone and Mineral Metabolism at the Manchester Royal Infirmary, has found that advanced breast-cancer patients with a high level of the active form of vitamin D in their blood have a better survival rate than those with low levels. Working with a grant from the Association for International Cancer Research, she monitored two groups of 13 women with the disease. One group with high or normal levels of the vitamin survived the six months of the trial. Five out of the 13 in the other group died.

The incidence of breast cancer is lower in areas with sunny climates, and one of the most important actions of sunlight is making vitamin D. When exposure to the sun is sufficient, dietary sources of the vitamin are not necessary to build up sufficient levels of the vitamin. When people are ill, however, they may not go out into the sun enough and become deficient in the vitamin. Oily fish such as salmon or mackerel can supplement the amount needed. Taking extra supplements can be dangerous, causing side effects such as kidney stones.

Professor Mawer said that building up the vitamin in the blood appeared to be a worthwhile treatment for cancers in the breast, prostate and pancreas. However, ensuring levels did not drop below the norm might prevent the disease from developing. How the vitamin restricted growth was not yet clear.

Medicine Chest, page 16

## Cellulite creams branded useless

By Our Medical Correspondent

PRODUCTS sold for reducing cellulite are more likely to reduce the bank balance than shrink thighs, according to *Health Which?* Tests on ten leading creams found that they had no effect on subcutaneous fat.

The Consumers' Association magazine says that, because cellulite is so little understood, the beauty industry is keen to promote cures for getting rid of it. However, six-week tests by volunteers found that the creams only made the skin feel smoother or softer.

Costs ranged from £9.95 for 200ml of Boots's brand to £27 for 200ml of Lancôme or Estée Lauder products. A Superdrug cream used in the control cost £1.99 for 200ml. Each tested cream was

put in an unmarked container and the cheap cream, with no claim to reduce cellulite, in an identical one. The volunteers rubbed the cellulite cream on one leg and the cheap product on the other. They reported no difference in the amount of cellulite and four preferred the cheap version.

Claims about the value of the creams varied. Dior did not mention the word cellulite on the packaging of its Svelte Perfect, but said that "very soon the silhouette is refined" and the cream would "reshape the desired areas". Clinique claimed that its Firm Believer reduced the appearance of dimpled orange-skin peel. Elancol said that its Intimate Minceur would "help significantly reduce the appearance of cellulite". Body Shop made no claims,

but called its product Cellulite Massage Oil. Claims by some that the cream would shift fat by breaking it down were dismissed by two *Which?* dermatologists. No known substance could do this simply by being applied to the skin, they reported.

The Consumers' Association asked the manufacturers for clinical proof that their products worked, but some of the theories put forward "bore no resemblance to any proven facts". Estée Lauder and Clinique sent no evidence.

"Making cellulite disappear with a cream is appealing, but virtually impossible," the magazine says. "We suggest you use caution, before spending lots of money on any cellulite treatment. If it sounds to be too good to be true, it probably is."

# Wife divorces priest over woman pastor

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A CURATE has taken early retirement before being forced to resign over his relationship with a female Baptist ordi-

nand sent to his parish on work experience. The Rev John Hargreaves, 55, is leaving St Barnabas's Church in Openshaw, Manchester, three years after Judith Pajak, 38, a mother of three, was sent to him for training. His wife, Cynthia, 52, who has started divorce proceedings for unreasonable behaviour, blames the breakdown of their 28-year-old marriage on the friendship when Mr Hargreaves was vicar of a parish in Rochdale. The divorce made clear that Mr Hargreaves decided to retire before he was asked to resign and his licence to minister revoked.

The Hargreaves' marriage got into difficulties when he was at St Peter's Church in Newbold, Rochdale. He offered to resign but was persuaded to take on the less demanding post of curate at another church while he sorted out his problems.

Mrs Hargreaves, who has three children, now lives apart from her husband in the Rochdale area. She says their marriage was firm until Mrs Pajak arrived in the parish. "We celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary in July 1994 and even went on a second honeymoon to Israel. Everything was fine, we couldn't have been happier."

Then Judith Pajak started at the church in September. She was always calling around to the vicarage or ringing up late at night, when I had gone to bed. If she went away for a week, she would ring him every night.

In July 1995 he went with her to the solicitor's so she could start divorce proceedings against her husband. One day, in March 1996, I came home from work and he had taken almost everything."

Mr Hargreaves moved to Bacup, Lancashire, and he, in turn, started divorce proceedings for unreasonable behav-



Judith Pajak is blamed by Cynthia Hargreaves, below, for the break-up of her marriage to John



... Mr Hargreaves, who underwent a mastectomy after breast cancer was diagnosed, said that the couple decided to drop their divorce petitions to dissolve the marriage amicably. She says Mr Hargreaves then told her that he wanted to continue his relationship with Mrs Pajak with a view to marriage.



"I was so stunned I almost collapsed and had to be treated for shock," she said. "He made a promise to me then that he would support me and look after me. Now all he gives me is £60 a month. I am on income support."

Last night her husband was unavailable for comment. His solicitors said that they had no comment to make. Mrs Pajak, who lives in Rochdale, said: "I am not going to talk about this."

# Innocent clergy are told to trust in God

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

VICARS who are falsely accused in sexual gossip should learn to trust in God that the truth will out, clergy of the General Synod of the Church of England heard yesterday.

The Rev John Bannister, vicar of Holy Trinity, Tisbury, Wiltshire, said: "I have been in one thousand different situations, from a woman in one house who stripped herself naked, to a curate who decided he would get all the unmarried women together in the parish hall and give them a field day. I found myself visiting them one by one afterwards and facing all kinds of accusations."

Mr Bannister, who is married, said: "Thank God I have been entirely protected. At some time, we have got to trust God." He was once called at 2am to visit a suicidal 25-year-old girl: "I was there 1½ hours trying to persuade her not to take the pills. Then there was gossip."

"I have been accused of giving a lady a baby at one stage. My solicitor said, 'Walk away from it, it will go away, trust God.' I did, I have, and I am still here."

In a rare, separate meeting of the Convocation of Canterbury, the ancient parliament of the Church, the clergy were meeting to discuss proposals to reform church discipline. Next year, the Synod will be asked to decide whether new tribunals should meet in public or in private if they replace the current system of church courts.

Canon Alan Hawker, author of a report on clergy discipline, said that the Church was not trying to avoid washing its dirty linen in public. "There is the issue of innocent clergy being unduly tarnished by public proceedings."

Afterwards the Rev Bill Beaver, the Church's director of communications, said: "All priests walk a fine line when they are in a pastoral situation of which they are not in control. Every priest has got all kinds of stories like this."



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Why not change the way we work?

# Rare breeds trust staff accused of starving piglets

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

PIGLETS kept by a rare breeds conservation trust were so starved that they ate carcasses from their own herd, a court was told yesterday.

An RSPCA video played to the court showed 44 weaner piglets crammed into a small shed, with some starting to devour piglets that had recently died. The saddlebacks were kept in sordid conditions with no food, bedding or water, magistrates were told.

The RSPCA discovered the weaner pigs at White Park cow and some sheep in a skeletal state, shivering in ramshackle sheds at the trust's site in Dunsmore, Buckinghamshire. The only evidence of food was frozen lumps of garlic butter.

Adam Driver, a vet who treated the animals, told Amersham Magistrates' Court: "Two piglets which were dead and being cannibalised, in my opinion, endured suffering before death." He said that the conditions in the shed fell below British and EU welfare standards.

David Hobbes, an RSPCA inspector, said he had visited the site in November 1996 and found the weaner pigs kept in a concrete building with no glass in the windows. "Some of the pigs stood shivering and a number of pigs were

attacking the carcasses of two other dead weaners. There was no evidence of any food, water or bedding."

David Watkiss, 58, one of three men who ran the site, said many of the pigs did not belong to the trust. He said the piglets were contained in a shed to stop them running on to a road. He added that he was being unfairly picked on by Mr Hobbes.

Mr Watkiss, of Prestwood, Buckinghamshire, denies 42 charges relating to causing unnecessary suffering. Jeremy Smith, 30, of Monks Risborough, and James Cozens, 42, of Princess Risborough, deny 28 charges as owners of permitting unnecessary suffering to animals. The trial continues.



Watkiss denies causing suffering to animals

# Two farmers defy Quantocks ban to shoot 100 deer

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

TWO West Country farmers have admitted shooting 100 red deer between them since the National Trust banned staghunting on its land in the Quantock Hills last April.

Ben Bartlett and Robert Rowe, both members of the Quantock Staghounds, said yesterday that they had to cull the deer, between August and November last year, to protect their crops because hunting was no longer allowed as a method of control.

Opponents of hunting, and some other farmers, accused the pair of being barbaric and greedy and of using emotional blackmail to try and get the staghunting ban lifted.

Mr Bartlett, who farms at Over Stoney, Somerset, said: "Without hunting, we have no choice but to cull the deer to keep their numbers down to a level where we can afford to allow them on our land."

"Non-hunting farmers and landowners have been culling deer for years to protect their land, but when hunting farmers, who have preserved the deer in the past, take the same action, there is all hell to pay."

Mr Rowe, whose farm is at Spaxton, said: "It is not revenge. We are not saying 'I told you so.' I know it is sad, but we are not going to feed the deer for nothing. We cannot afford to. In the past we

have put up with £5,000 of crop damage a year for the sake of the sport and the good of the deer."

The two farmers argue that hunting is the best way of controlling deer because it stops the herd growing too large and keeps the animals on the move, preventing too many from congregating in any one place. Deer are classified as pests and can legally be shot by farmers.

But other landowners yesterday accused the two men of breaking an agreement on how many deer should be culled. Michael Fry, a neighbour of Mr Bartlett, said: "These are people who profess to love deer. This is barbaric. It is pure greed. They sat round the table with us and agreed how many deer should be killed."

Hugh Warmington, chairman of the local deer conservation group, said hopes of securing agreement on a deer management plan had been "blown apart". He added: "It feels like running very strongly. I feel very unhappy about it, not just for the deer, but for the whole community."

The National Trust banned staghunting after receiving a report commissioned from a Cambridge scientist stating that deer suffered extreme physical stress during the chase.

# Irish Navy runs short of sailors

BRITISH naval officers are to be targeted for recruitment into the Irish Navy to help to overcome a staffing crisis in the seven-strong fleet.

The Irish Navy, which celebrated its fiftieth anniversary two years ago, wants to tempt ten officers with watchkeeping experience to leave the Royal Navy fleet of 130 vessels, including submarines.

Vacancies for ten executive officers to join the Republic's naval service will appear in the British Navy press within the next few weeks.

The Irish Navy, which is having an eighth vessel built at a shipyard in Devon, is offering £20,000 a year plus

# Republic hopes to recruit British officers, reports Audrey Magee

allowances for going to sea to sailors of sub-lieutenant rank. Ireland's long tradition of supplying combatants to the United Kingdom's Armed Forces has been reversed because of staffing difficulties caused by low morale. The navy is unable to retain senior officers who, fed up and frustrated, are leaving to take up jobs in the private sector.

The Irish Government hopes to avert any further loss by advertising in magazines such as Navy News, the

monthly newspaper for former and current servicemen. Commonwealth countries such as Australia and New Zealand regularly advertise for staff in the paper. The tabloid, with a circulation of 85,000, has also carried recruitment advertisements for the Sultan of Oman's navy.

Navy sources suggest that Ireland's crisis is far deeper than the need for ten more officers. It is in desperate need of modernisation and its total force of about 1,000 is below

full strength. A report by Price Waterhouse to be published soon is expected to recommend that the staff is increased to 1,200, a radical overhaul of procedures and a complete replacement of the fleet during the next 15 years.

Although Ireland espouses neutrality, it needs a modern navy to patrol fishing zones and detect the sophisticated gangs smuggling drugs into Ireland by sea.

The Republic's Navy comprises the flagship *Eithne* and six other vessels: *Deirdre*, *Emer*, *Aoife*, *Aisling*, *Orla* and *Ciara*. Two of them were former Royal Navy patrol ships in Hong Kong.

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# Primary pupils to face national tests every year

MOST primary school pupils will face national tests every year from the age of seven under plans announced by government advisers yesterday, making English children the most tested in the Western world.

Nine out of ten schools are expected to use optional tests for nine-year-olds in English and mathematics this summer. The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority will now pilot similar tests for eight and ten-year-olds.

With "baseline assessment" due to start at the age of five and compulsory tests established at seven and 11, only six-year-olds will be sure to avoid national testing before the start of secondary education. A decade ago, many children passed through primary school with no formal testing.

## Council to fund assisted places

By DAVID CHARTER AND MARK HENDERSON

A CONSERVATIVE council is to become the first to replace assisted places at independent schools as they are scrapped by the Government.

Surrey County Council is setting up a trust fund to provide free independent school places for up to 200 children from low-income families, the same number of pupils who benefited annually from the abolished Assisted Places Scheme. The council plans to give the schools the £1,800 it receives from the Government for each child.

It said the scheme showed the spirit of partnership between state and independent education which ministers were calling for. In return for subsidised pupils, independent schools will be expected to offer master classes to other state school students, or open up sports or specialist facilities to them.

The move comes months after the Government carried

**Educationists are convinced regular checks will improve standards, says John O'Leary**

chief executive, said the new tests had been developed in response to strong demand from schools. There had been a "sea-change" in teachers' attitude to national testing, as schools looked for a reliable measure of their progress. Opinion polling carried out for the authority showed that 95 per cent of teachers found the tests in mathematics and

science reliable and useful. Even 76 per cent of English teachers, whose opposition sparked a union boycott five years ago, considered the tests of 14-year-olds useful.

Dr Tate said the pressure on teachers to improve results was partly behind the change. "In terms of a recognition that the tests are here to stay, are useful and are playing a major role in raising standards, I think this is very striking."

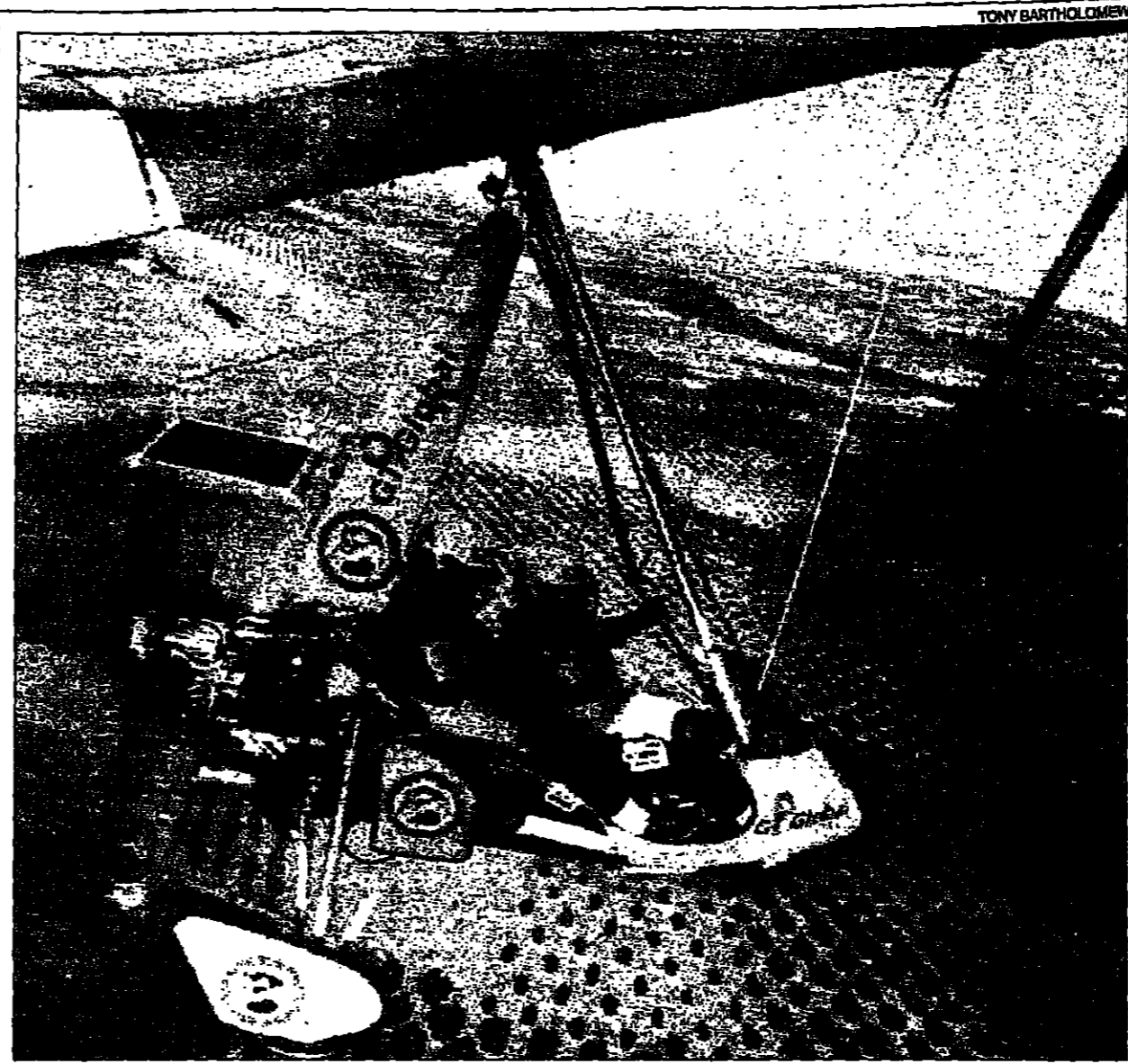
Results from last summer's tests demonstrated their value in exposing national weaknesses, Dr Tate said at a London briefing. Pilot tests for nine-year-olds in 270 schools confirmed the view of Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, that performance dipped in the middle years of primary school.

Shortcomings were most obvious in mathematics, Dr Tate said. But only 67 per cent reached the standard expected of a nine-year-old in reading, 58 per cent in writing and 55 per cent in spelling. Most nine-year-olds could spell words such as "over" and "number", but the success rate dropped to 15 per cent for words such as "aeroplane", "height" and "unusual". The same group of children achieved much better results for their age when they were tested at seven.

In mathematics, only 59 per cent of children achieved the standard expected for nine-year-olds, when more than 80 per cent had reached the expected level at seven. The authority said almost half the sample failed to make the expected progress between the ages of seven and nine.

Analysis of the nine-year-olds' answers showed difficulty with fractions and in adding or subtracting sums of money of more than £1.

The Government has pledged to ensure that 80 per cent of 11-year-olds will achieve the level expected for their age in English and 75 per cent in mathematics by 2002. Dr Tate said that while the progress of eight and nine-year-olds needed attention, he was confident the target would be reached.



Latter-day adventurers: Keith Reynolds and Brian Milton in the GT Global Flyer ready for the round-world trip

## Remembering a flight of fancy

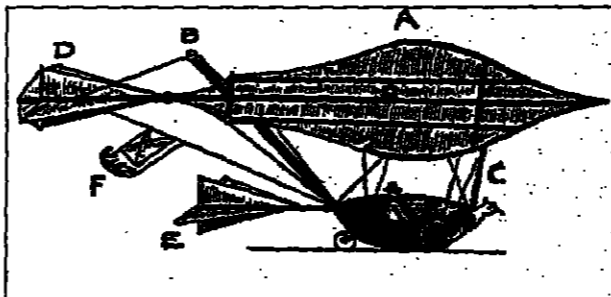
By PAUL WILKINSON

ALMOST two centuries ago a Yorkshire engineer persuaded his coachman to switch from driving horses to the riskier enterprise of flying his experimental gliders, designed and built in a summer house at his country estate.

The reluctant coachman quit and returned to his horses after breaking his leg in a flight which covered just 141 yards in 1810. But his example has inspired two British pilots to attempt to become the first to fly a microlight around the world.

Their trip, in honour of the aviation pioneer Sir George Cayley, is a little longer — more than 24,000 miles — and they plan to complete it in 80 days.

Yesterday they set off on a proving flight from a cow pasture at Sir George's ances-



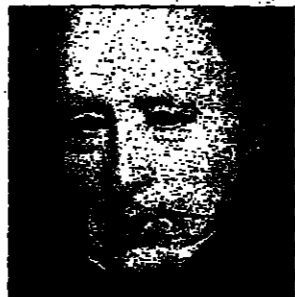
Early bird: one of the first glider designs by the aviation pioneer Sir George Cayley

tral home at Brompton Hall, near Scarborough. Their destination was Berlin, home of another pioneer, Otto Lilienthal, who used Sir George's ideas more than 60 years later. His flights approached a quarter of a mile.

The flight, a tribute to both men, by Brian Milton, home of a pilot Keith Reynolds, is the first long-distance trip by the GT Global Flyer which they

intend to use for the round-world trip, starting from London next month. Unlike Sir George's unpowered glider, however, the open-cockpit aircraft is powered by a 1200cc, 80hp engine, and cruises at around 65mph.

Mr Milton, 55, a financial journalist from London, is already the holder of the record for the longest and fastest microlight flight, trav-



Early bird: one of the first glider designs by the aviation pioneer Sir George Cayley

elling from London to Sydney in 59 days. His 45-year-old co-pilot, from Rochester in Kent, is a former British national hang-gliding champion and a Civil Aviation Authority test pilot.

They plan to fly to Athens, over the Middle East, and northern India, to Hong Kong, then across China to Japan, Russia and Alaska, returning via Iceland in July.

## University is sued by student accused of cheating

By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

A STUDENT who was denied a degree after being accused of cheating is going to court in an attempt to force Cambridge University to award him the qualification.

Kamran Beg is believed to be the first student to challenge the university in court over allegations of plagiarism. He was accused of copying part of an essay which counted towards a one-year postgraduate degree in finance at Trinity College.

A solicitor for Mr Beg, who is single and in his early 30s, denied that he acted dishonestly. Jaswinder Gill said that his client had inadvertently omitted attributions or footnotes to passages he had quoted. "He is taking his grievance to the High Court to get his degree and to clear his name."

Mr Beg's case was rejected by Cambridge's court of discipline and its court of appeal, the Septemviri. No further right of appeal exists. He has been granted leave to challenge the university's decision at the High Court in London. Cambridge has almost two months to respond before it is decided whether the case should go to a hearing.

Mr Gill said that Mr Beg had never accepted the allegations made against him. "He says he feels violated by what has happened. He put in a year's work and then didn't get the qualification right at the end. He is very intelligent and has been at the top of the class all of his life."

Mr Beg has a first-class degree in engineering from Manchester and a master's qualification. Although he achieved high marks in three examinations at Cambridge in 1996, he was told that he could not be awarded the qualification because he had plagiarised other people's work in his assessed essay.

Tim Mead, who heads Cambridge's administrative services, confirmed that a writ had been served. He said: "The university is taking the matter very seriously. The university has not, to my knowledge, been taken to court in this way before."

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# Peacekeeper who lost leg is denied compensation



Walker yesterday: was given leave to appeal

A BRITISH soldier who lost a leg on UN peacekeeping duties in Bosnia failed in his High Court battle for compensation yesterday. A judge rejected accusations by Sergeant Trevor Walker, 32, that the Ministry of Defence acted "unfairly and perversely" when it refused to compensate him, even though the United Nations would eventually reimburse the cost. Mr Justice Latham expressed considerable sympathy for the argument that it was surprising that the Ministry of Defence had felt it not appropriate to extend its compensation scheme to peacekeeping forces. But the judge said it did not apply to

Bosnia alone and British soldiers might be required to act as peacekeepers in areas where there was no such indemnity. "In these circumstances I cannot categorise the policy as irrational or perversely," the judge said. However, he agreed to give Sergeant Walker, from Gillingham, Kent, leave to take his case to the Court of Appeal on the ground that it raised issues of public importance and could affect other service personnel. During last week's hearing, David Pannick, QC, appearing for Sergeant Walker, had described to the court the "appalling events" of

May 3, 1995, when a Serbian tank opened fire on Maglaj School, which served as an observation post and accommodation block. Sergeant Walker, then a corporal in the Royal Engineers engaged in road building, was seriously injured and underwent 13 operations. His right leg was amputated above the knee in January 1996. He was likely to be invalided out of the Army before the end of his career, the judge said. He had an "exemplary" disciplinary record and was described by his commanding officer as a first-class soldier "of almost unlimited potential to achieve high rank and a full career", who had borne his pain

"with enormous fortitude and has been an example to us all". If invalided out, it was estimated that he would receive a pension gratuity of about £23,000 and an annual pension of about £11,500. In October 1996, the ministry refused to pay him compensation under its Criminal Injuries Compensation Overseas Scheme. The judge described how the scheme, introduced in 1980, was meant to give injured members of the Armed Forces serving overseas compensation equivalent to what they would have received if they had become the victim of a crime of violence in Britain. It did not provide awards

for service personnel injured by acts of violence occurring "as a result of war operations or military activity by warring factions". The judge ruled that, although the tank attack that caused Sergeant Walker's injuries was a crime of violence, it also amounted to military activity and fell within the exception to the compensation policy. He also rejected accusations that the ministry had unfairly failed to alert serving soldiers that the compensation scheme had been changed by 1994 to exclude peacekeeping activities such as those in Bosnia.

# Baghdad package tour is a hostage to fortune

By Robin Young

THE Foreign Office advised yesterday that "no one in their right mind" should take a package holiday to Baghdad at present. A party scheduled to leave at Easter has yet to cancel its plans.

MPs fear that tourists would be likely to be taken captive by Saddam Hussein as human shields, which happened during the Gulf War, but the holiday organiser says that he still has no shortage of takers for the visit.

The £1,350 trip, arranged by Phil Haines, from Twickenham, southwest London, includes a flight by Royal Jordanian Air to Amman and then a four-wheel-drive journey into Iraq. The travellers are booked to stay at the four-star al-Rasheed Hotel, where the BBC reporter John Simpson watched a missile soar past his window at the start of the last conflict.

Highlights of the trip include a Baghdad city tour, an outing to the purported site of the Garden of Eden and a boat trip to the Basra marshes. According to Mr Haines, 12 people are in the party, including two solicitors, an archaeologist, a London firefighter, a chef and a policeman.

He hopes that their sortie will be the first in a series of such package deals he plans to offer. He said yesterday that he might cancel it if the situation worsened.

However, Ann Winterton, Conservative MP for Congleton, said: "I am amazed that anyone should consider it." Michael Fabricant, Conservative MP for Lichfield, said: "They might not only have to face the risk of being taken hostage, but also a shower of American and British smart bombs."

A Briton held hostage in the Gulf War, John Rattenbury, 68, an agricultural consultant from Inwardleigh, Devon, said: "It does not seem very sensible. There are enough troubles without going looking for them."

Turks move in, page 13

# Award of £57,000 for hero haunted by air disaster

Adrian Lee reports on the end of a nine-year battle for compensation by traumatised Kegworth rescuer

A FORMER Royal Marine was driving home from work when a Boeing 737 crashed before his eyes. He was the first to enter the wreckage and what he saw that night has haunted him ever since. Forty-seven people died when the British Midland jet attempted an emergency landing at East Midlands Airport, Leicestershire, nine years ago. Yesterday Graham Pearson,

39, was awarded £57,000 compensation for the trauma he has suffered after going to the aid of survivors of the Kegworth air disaster. Since the crash Mr Pearson, who spent nine years in the Army, including two tours to Northern Ireland, has suffered post-traumatic stress, lost his job and had marital difficulties. Mr Justice Garland, sitting at the High

Court, said of amount he was entitled to award against the airline: "Our system of law is not generous to people forced to live a recurring nightmare." The judge said he had no doubt that Mr Pearson, who needed hospital treatment, had lost his job as a kitchen salesman because of what he saw during the "appalling tragedy".

The court heard that Mr Pearson, a father of four from Hull, who was with his wife, Rose, when the crash happened, spent the night pulling survivors from the wreckage and, in particular, aided an injured mother and her baby. He later received the Royal Humane Society's bravery award, but suffered feelings of guilt, loss of interest in life and lack of concentration. The court was told that when he witnessed a motorway pile-up on his way to work in 1994, he was unable to stop and help because of his memories of the air disaster. Mr Pearson said yesterday: "I feel very relieved. The legal process has taken nine years



Graham Pearson outside the High Court yesterday. He said the award "will enable me to lay the ghost to rest"

and every solicitor's letter, every contact with the defendants, reminded me of the plane crash." He said he had never received a letter of thanks from British Midland. "As from today, I feel it will enable me to lay the ghost to rest." Graham Turnbull, a psychiatrist who worked with the victims affected by the Hungerford massacre and the Lockerbie and Hillsborough disasters, examined Mr Pear-

son and found that he was a strong character who was trying to deny to himself the profound effects the experience had had on him. The judge said Mr Pearson needed periods in hospital for treatment and eventually decided to study for qualifications so that he could find a job in youth and community work. "I have no hesitation in finding that the plaintiff lost his job because of the prob-

lems associated with post-traumatic stress disorder," Mr Justice Garland said. The judge awarded him almost the full amount of his claim for damages, loss of earnings, studying for a new career, travel and hospital bills — a total of more than £40,000 plus interest over six and a half years. Earlier, Mr Pearson, who is now a youth worker, broke down as he recalled the accident. His counsel, Paul Rose,

said the claim was modest, but British Midland said he was only about £200 worse off. At least one of the survivors has said that he owes his life to Mr Pearson. After the crash, Donat Desmond described how Mr Pearson used a dog lead to stop the flow of blood from leg wounds while he comforted other injured passengers. "Just to hear another human voice kept me this side of eternity," Mr Desmond said.



Rescuers at the Kegworth air disaster nine years ago

# Woodward running out of cash for \$2m battle to clear her name

By Stewart Tendler

LOUISE WOODWARD may not be able to afford a full legal battle in the American courts to clear her name of killing Matthew Eappen, her parents said yesterday after flying back from the United States.

Speaking at their home in Elton, Cheshire, Gary and Susan Woodward said that funds contributed by well-wishers were disappearing rapidly. The thousands raised have been seriously depleted over the months since the 19-year-old former au pair was convicted of second-degree murder last autumn.

The conviction was reduced to involuntary manslaughter by Judge Hiller Zobel after the trial. A prosecution challenge to the reduction in verdict is to be heard on March 6 in Boston, Massachusetts, where the baby died a year ago yesterday. The hearing will also consider a

defence appeal for her involuntary manslaughter conviction to be overturned. Judge Zobel's reduction of her life sentence to one of 279 days covered the time she had spent in prison awaiting trial. It meant she could be free to leave the United States as soon as the appeal process was completed.

Miss Woodward has said she will stay as long as it takes to prove her innocence, because she does not want to return home with a criminal record. If her appeal fails, her family would like to fight for a retrial.

Ken Davey, vicar of Elton and chairman of the Louise Woodward and Family Trust, which looks after money donated to the Louise Woodward Campaign for Justice, said the fund total currently stood at about £200,000. He said this would cover the appeal, but not a retrial, which would cost about \$2 million (£1.2 million).

The EF au pair agency, which initially

placed Miss Woodward with the Eappen family, paid for the legal costs of her trial, but ended its financial support in January. Medical experts who testified for the defence have offered their services free to speak at the appeal and say papers outlining the evidence of her innocence will be published in relevant journals and on the Internet.

Mrs Woodward said yesterday: "If the prosecution aren't successful and the judge's decision is upheld and they don't grant our appeal either, then that means that she will come back to this country with an involuntary manslaughter conviction and Louise will have to go on with her life with that hanging over her head."

Mr Woodward said he had been surprised by his daughter's ability to cope with a year of trauma. "She has matured beyond her years this past 12 months. I don't know how she has done it. She amazes me sometimes — her strength and character. We are very proud of her."

# Black holes appear at the White House

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

STEPHEN HAWKING has been invited to speak at the White House by President Clinton.

The Clintons and 180 invited guests will hear Professor Hawking, who is disabled by motor neurone disease and speaks through a voice synthesiser, give a lecture about what science can achieve in the next century.

A White House spokesman said: "Stephen Hawking was chosen because his work centred around time and scientific discovery — he seemed a natural choice to talk about time during the passing of the millennium."

Yesterday Professor Hawking, Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge,

was keeping the contents of his lecture secret. It will take place next month.

A new edition of Professor Hawking's bestseller *A Brief History of Time* is to be published to celebrate the tenth anniversary of its publication. The book made history itself as the longest-running bestseller, spending 237 weeks in the top ten and selling six million copies worldwide.

The new edition, to be published in June, has been revised by Professor Hawking to include the latest findings. "But the basic message remains the same: we have made remarkable progress in understanding the universe and this is something we should share."

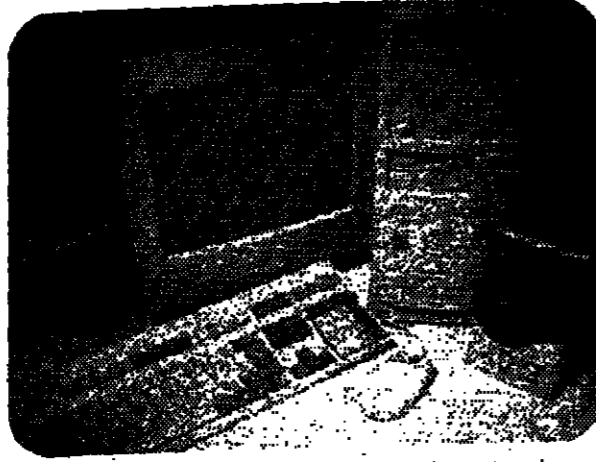
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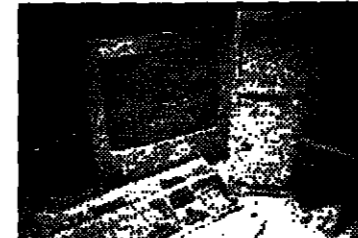
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# Clean-cut killer of Louise Smith is jailed for life

## DNA trapped eloquent murderer who had evaded justice for 15 months, reports Simon de Bruxelles

DAVID FROST was the type of young man you could take home to your mother: a promising engineering student who was eloquent and sociable. But 18-year-old Louise Smith never got to take him home to her mother — because he raped and choked her after they met by chance on Christmas Day two years ago.

Miss Smith's parents and brother have not celebrated Christmas since, and yesterday they clung to each other as Frost, 22, was jailed for life after admitting murder.

Detectives said that Frost, the clean-cut son of a retired bank official, was not an obvious suspect for the murder. At first he denied any guilt, but finally he decided to act "honourably" and he began to confess how he had raped and murdered Miss Smith before dumping her body in a quarry.

Detective Sergeant Gary Davies, who brought Frost home from South Africa to face justice, said after the case: "You would think he was a very pleasant young man. If your daughter brought him home to meet you, you would think that she hadn't made a bad choice."

"He was an intellectual, clean-cut young man. He was very eloquent. But there was a much darker side, a side which people didn't see."

Miss Smith's body was found two months after she had disappeared on her way home from Spirals nightclub in Yate, near Bristol. Friends had offered a lift to the intelligent and bubbly teenager, nicknamed Twiggy, but she decided to walk. Frost was arrested 15 months later, when

genetic evidence proved he had had sex with Miss Smith on her last night.

Bristol Crown Court was told yesterday that the Surrey University student had avoided giving a DNA sample for more than a year after detectives first visited his home near the quarry in Yate where Miss Smith's body was found. He was eventually persuaded to give a saliva swab to police in South Africa, where he was on work experience with a civil engineering firm. When the DNA test proved positive, Mr



Murderer: David Frost

Davies and another detective flew to South Africa, which has no extradition treaty with Britain, and persuaded him to return with them. He was arrested at Heathrow last April.

Initially he told police that he had left Miss Smith to walk home after having consensual sex and that someone else must have killed her. But, in his sixth interview, he told Mr Davies: "I would like, hopefully,

to conduct this more honourably. I think everybody has suffered enough. I would like to say I think I did rape Louise and was responsible for her death."

He still denied murder and said that the death of Miss Smith, a clerk, had been unintentional. Last Thursday, however, he decided to change his plea to guilty of murder. A charge of rape was allowed to lie on the file although Frost's lawyer, Stephen Williamson, QC, said there was no suggestion that the young woman had consented to intercourse.

Miss Smith's mother fled the courtroom in tears as her daughter's last moments were described yesterday. The court was told that Frost had been turned away from Spirals after spending the evening in a pub with friends. He came across Miss Smith as he walked the streets, and began talking to her because "I was feeling down and missing people. I remember thinking she looked extremely attractive. I wished her a merry Christmas and asked if she minded me walking with her. She said no."

Frost forced the young woman into a wood, where he raped her. A scream was heard by a witness. Frost told police: "I didn't want her to be upset. I wanted to try to reason with her and comfort her. I was panicking and she was crying, making more and more noise."

Frost said he put his hand over her mouth and found himself pressing on her throat. "I took my hands away. It was too late... she wasn't talking. I didn't want her to be dead. I was sorry."



Louise Smith, a bright and bubbly teenager, died after refusing a lift home from friends

He stripped her, apart from her shoes, and hid the body on a cliff ledge that he knew from having played there as a child. It was found by two 13-year-old boys.

Miss Smith clung to her husband, Robert, and son, Richard, 21, as Judge Rodger Bell jailed Frost for life for his "evil" crime. Afterwards the family called for a return of the death penalty. "I don't see why we should all have to pay

to keep David Frost alive," Mrs Smith, a shop worker, said.

"When they stopped the death penalty, I agreed at the time. But now they have got all this forensic evidence and I don't think they can make a mistake any more."

Mr and Mrs Smith gave up their jobs and moved from their home in Chipping Sodbury because it held too many memories. Mr Smith, a

delivery driver, said that they had been unable to put up Christmas decorations since. "How can we celebrate the anniversary of our daughter's death?"

The hunt for Miss Smith's killer was the most extensive investigation by Avon and Somerset police. More than 700 officers were involved in the £1.5 million inquiry, 14,800 people were interviewed and 3,700 homes visited.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Stepmother, 26, faces US kidnap charges

A young widow faces extradition to the United States over claims that she abducted her two stepsons, Nicola Owens, 26, is involved in a custody battle with their mother, who has admitted abusing and neglecting them. Mrs Owens brought the boys, aged five and six, to Britain from Germany soon after her husband, a US Army sergeant stationed there, died in an accident.

She is on bail awaiting an extradition hearing before Bow Street magistrates in London and could face a life sentence in Alabama for kidnapping. The soldier was already divorced and had custody of the boys when Mrs Owens went to work for him as a nanny. After his death she returned to Leeds and the High Court in London ruled that the children should live with her. The US Army is withholding a financial settlement, believed to be about \$100,000 (£57,000), set aside for the boys' upbringing, pending the outcome of the legal action.

## Ex-PC on rape charges

A former policeman appeared before Birmingham magistrates, accused of six rapes, four other serious sexual offences, wounding and making threats to kill. Michael Charles, 49, from Tynesley, Birmingham, retired from the West Midlands force in 1995 after serving as a uniformed officer in the city and in Wolverhampton. He was remanded in custody until February 16. There was no application for bail.

## Aid worker in clear

A British aid worker will not face charges over allegations that he "sexually corrupted" an orphan girl in Romania. Brian Freeman, 47, from Leicester, heads the House of Children charity which has adopted an orphanage at Sinait. He was barred from leaving the country for 30 days while police investigated, but he was not arrested. A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We have been told he can leave Romania, but we understand he may be staying for some time."

## Actress's lover lied

The boyfriend of a former *EastEnders* actress admitted driving while disqualified and driving without insurance in a crash in which she nearly lost an eye. Redbridge Magistrates' Court at Ilford, East London, was told that Robert Fernandez, 23, initially tried to escape prosecution by telling police that Daniella Westbrook — who played Sam Butcher in the television soap — had been driving. The case was adjourned for pre-sentence reports.

## Supermarket apologises

Sainsbury's has sent apologies to 130,000 loyalty card holders at 145 stores that opened through the night on December 23 and Christmas Eve. Customers complained that fresh produce sold out. The supermarket chain said that it underestimated how many people would take advantage of the scheme. It now keeps 55 stores open throughout Friday nights and will extend all-night opening to more stores next Christmas.

# Grief is unending for the families of two missing girls

## A last kiss and then Vicky Hamilton vanished. Her sister is still seeking clues, reports Gillian Harris

Seven years ago today, on a snowy afternoon, Sharon Brown kissed her sister Vicky goodbye at a bus stop. She was the last member of her family to see the 15-year-old, who vanished while waiting for the bus.

More than 100 police officers searched the area around Vicky Hamilton's home in Redding, Falkirk, divers trawled nearby rivers. The National Missing Persons Helpline used Vicky's face on milk cartons which were distributed nationwide.

The American rock group Soul Asylum used her picture in the video for their 1993 single *Runaway Train*. But no trace of her was found. Lethian and Borders Police admit that it is one of their most baffling cases.

Under Scottish law, Vicky's father, Michael, could apply to a sheriff to have his daughter declared dead. The seven years since she vanished are all that is required in

Scotland for a missing person to be legally declared dead. Mr Hamilton, however, cannot bring himself to apply. He suspects that his daughter was abducted and murdered, but sees no point in having her death made official. As a teenager, Vicky had made no will and had no estate to divide.

There is also the fear that a move to declare her dead might close the police investigation. At present the file remains open, although officers are not following any fresh line of inquiry.

Vicky's disappearance has put an enormous strain upon her family. Her mother, Janette, who was ill before her daughter went missing, died, broken-hearted, in 1993. "It was three months after it happened before she went

out. She just sat and prayed," Mrs Brown, 27, said. A cousin of Vicky's, Kevin Thompson, committed suicide a week after the third anniversary of her disappearance.

As the months stretched into years, Mrs Brown kept

expecting to hear that Vicky had been spotted in Glasgow or London. She appeared to be a happy teenager with plenty of friends at Gracene High School where she was an academically gifted pupil, but Mrs Brown wondered whether she might have grown bored of small-town life and sought the excitement of a city.

Posters of Vicky were put up in shelters for the homeless in London and prostitutes in Edinburgh, Glasgow and London were asked to keep an eye out for her. The police used an FBI computer to create a photofit picture of how the teenager might look at 17 to help people to recognise her.

But, apart from a handful of false leads, there were no sightings. "We are left feeling

angry and confused," Mrs Brown said. Her 14-month-old daughter, Emma Jane, is being encouraged to call the teenager in the framed photograph on the mantelpiece. "It is still as much a mystery now as it was seven years ago," she added.

Mrs Brown now accepts that her sister is dead. But she believes there is someone somewhere who knows what happened. "The person who did it is very clever or very lucky not to have been caught," she said.

Today Mrs Brown will think about Vicky and what she might be like now, as a 21-year-old starting adult life. "The family will all have their own thoughts, then we will get on with our lives. We have to do that now."

"But that won't stop us wondering if, one day, something will turn up to explain what happened. We are always asking ourselves, could this be the vital clue?"

For the past ten years, a grieving middle-aged couple have hired mechanical diggers to excavate landfill sites, crawled on hands and knees through blocked sewers and plumbed disused runeshalts, searching for the body of their murdered daughter.

Last night Marie McCourt, 54, held a candlelit church service for the child she has been unable to bury. Her need for an answer to the question that haunts her has not faded since she shouted across a courtroom to the man convicted of the murder: "Tell us where she is. That is all we want to know."

Helen McCourt, an insurance clerk, was 22 when she disappeared 200 yards from her parents' home in Billinge, near St Helen's, Merseyside, in 1988.

The landlord of her local pub, Ian Simms, was found guilty at Liverpool Crown Court of her murder 13

months later. Police found one of her sapphire and opal earrings bloodstained in his car boot and blood on the pub door. He denied the murder.

Mrs McCourt, who has consulted mediums in her search, said last night that the ceremony at St Mary's Church would be a celebration of her daughter's life. "I still believe she will be found one day, but possibly not in my lifetime. I have to accept that this may be the closest I'll come to burying Helen. Ian Simms can prevent that happening, but he can't prevent us having a remem-

brance service to acknowledge that Helen did have a life with her colleagues, family and friends."

Mrs McCourt has joined support groups and become friendly with Winnie Johnson, the mother of the missing Moors Murders victim Keith Bennett. She has campaigned for extra punishment for murderers who refuse to reveal the whereabouts of their victims.

"The search has taken its toll, she admits. "We still go out searching, but not in the same way as we did. It is starting to make me ill. We find bones and then we have to get them examined. The thought that they could be part of your child's body is sometimes too much."

"It is like being suspended. I can't go forward because I am kept back by still wanting to bury my daughter. Maybe when this service is over, I will start to live again. I still won't give up hope of Helen being found."

### Stephen Farrell on the question a murderer won't answer

months later. Police found one of her sapphire and opal earrings bloodstained in his car boot and blood on the pub door. He denied the murder. Mrs McCourt, who has consulted mediums in her search, said last night that the ceremony at St Mary's Church would be a celebration of her daughter's life. "I still believe she will be found one day, but possibly not in my lifetime. I have to accept that this may be the closest I'll come to burying Helen. Ian Simms can prevent that happening, but he can't prevent us having a remem-

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# Town halls may switch to cabinet-style control

### John Prescott is seeking to modernise local government and boost election turnouts. Mark Henderson reports

COUNCILS will be encouraged to adopt directly elected mayors, cabinet-style decision-making and radical changes to electors under plans for reinvigorating local democracy published by the Government yesterday.

Yesterday John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, gave the strongest indication yet that there will be legislation in the next parliamentary session to carry out the most extensive revamp of local government structures since the 19th century.

"Be in no doubt, we want to see change in local government. We want to make the changes very quickly," he said. "At the end of the process, we want councils that represent their people more effectively and respond to their needs."

Mr Prescott expects swift responses to the Government's consultation paper before he brings out a White Paper in the summer. Further papers on council finance, standards and value for money will be published in the coming months.

Citizens' juries, standing citizens' panels and referendums are proposed in a drive to increase public participation in local government and provide clearer leadership and accountability. The establishment of paid executive councillors is also being considered, and councils are to be given a duty to promote

the social, economic and environmental well-being of their areas.

The stans quo will not be an option. The Prime Minister told delegates at the Labour Party's local government conference on Sunday that councils that modernised effectively would be rewarded with greater powers, whereas those that failed would be targets for government intervention.

Councils will be encouraged to reform the committee system of decision-making, which dates from the last century and is thought by ministers to waste time and obscure accountability. The executive and representative roles of councillors should be split, the paper argues, creating a handful of executives with clear responsibility for key services such as education and social services, and backbenchers who would concentrate on scrutinising the "cabinet" and representing their wards.

The Government is also "very attached" to the idea of directly elected mayors, intended to provide strong executive leadership

that is clearly identifiable and accountable to the electorate, the document says.

Mr Prescott said that he would like to introduce salaries for executive councillors instead of the present system of allowances, but conceded that he had yet to win this argument with fellow ministers. "It may not be right for every councillor, but there is certainly an argument for [paying] chairs of committees and leaders," he said.

Local elections face a major reorganisation under the proposals, which explore ways of increasing the turnout, which at an average of 40 per cent is the lowest in the European Union. Some councillors in each authority will be elected annually, as Labour promised in its manifesto. A rolling register of electors is being considered, and councils will be encouraged to set up polling stations at workplaces, shops and railway stations to make it easier to vote.

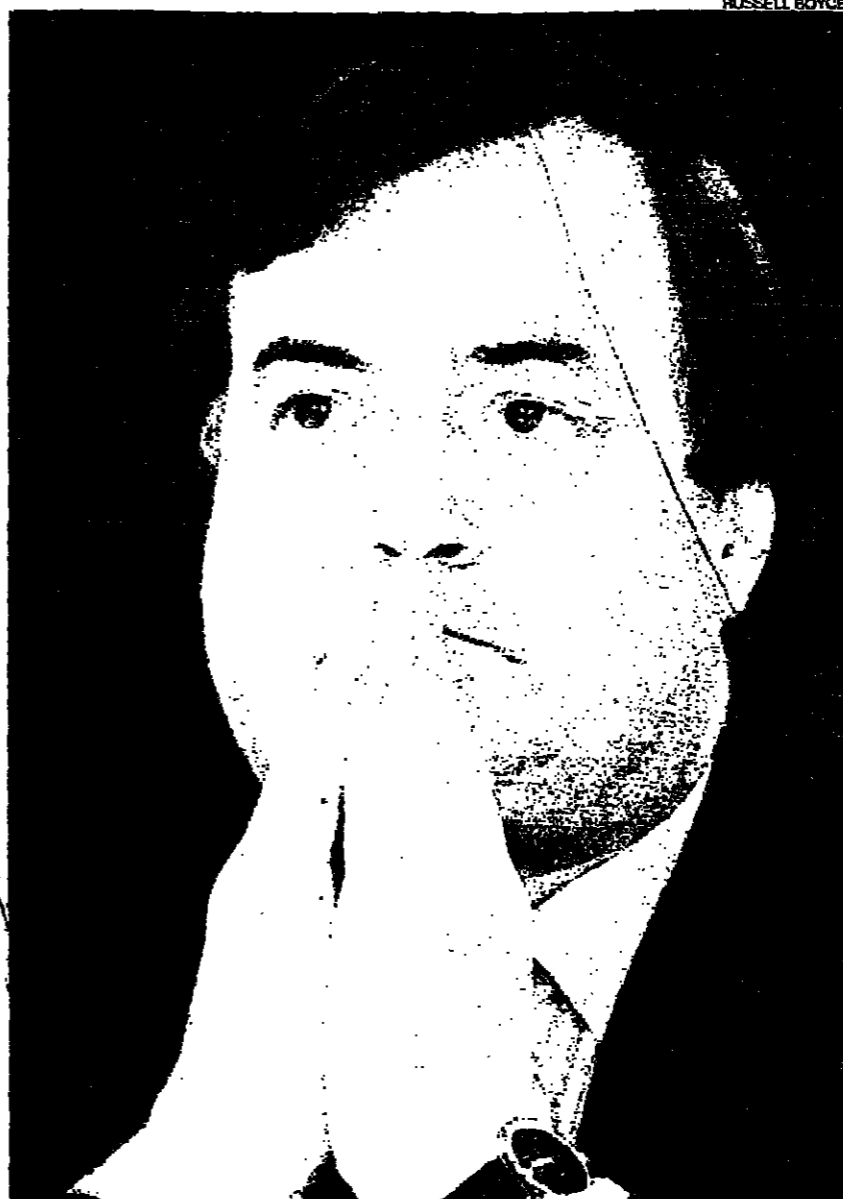
Other proposals include introducing ballots held entirely by post or with electronic smart cards, and extending polling

hours or moving polling day to the weekend. Proportional representation for council elections, however, has been ruled out, as has the introduction of compulsory voting.

Lord Hunt's Local Government (Experimental Arrangements) Bill, which has government support, will allow councils to adopt many of the proposals, such as directly elected mayors and cabinet government, on a pilot basis.

Hilary Armstrong, the local Government Minister, said that councils would get a new responsibility for promoting social, economic and environmental well-being, which would make them the "main agencies in their areas". The burden of local government finance would also move gradually from Treasury grants towards larger sums being raised locally.

Hammersmith and Fulham council in London hopes to become the first local authority to introduce some of the changes and has already drawn up plans to appoint a powerful executive mayor and cabinet. The present roles of ceremonial mayor and council leader would be combined, and deputies sitting together in a cabinet-style "mayor's committee" would have responsibility for different areas of local government delegated to them by the council.



John Prescott yesterday: "We want to make the changes very quickly"

## Peers told of need to ensure diverse press

JAMES LANDALE

THE Government should strengthen the competition laws to ensure a free and diverse newspaper industry, the Liberal Democrat peer Lord McNally said yesterday.

Proposing his amendment to the Competition Bill, Lord McNally, a former political adviser to James Callaghan, told the House that it was needed to prevent any national newspaper abusing its dominant market position to eliminate a rival. Freedom of the press was an important and essential ingredient of a free society. "But if freedom of the press can be imperilled by restrictive laws so it can also be threatened by restrictive ownership," he said.

"This amendment has one intention — to promote the framework of fair and transparent competition in our newspaper industry with the intention of sustaining diversity, quality and choice."

He said that the amendment was not aimed at any particular newspaper or newspaper group. But he added that *The Times's* price-cutting policy was designed to clear the field of its rivals. "What is good business for Rupert Murdoch is not necessarily good sense for a healthy democracy or diverse press."

Viscount Trenchard, a Conservative, accused Labour of changing its position since gaining power. He said that the amendment offered an opportunity to protect and preserve the diversity of Britain's national press "for which we are admired throughout the world".

But Lord Harris of High Cross, a crossbencher and non-executive director of *Times Newspapers*, described the amendment as "mischievous" and "myopic". He said that *The Times* had sold below its cost price for many years when its circulation was in decline. It was only now, that it was enjoying success, that the practice was attacked.

# Funding reform is key to reviving local democracy

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

THE Government's consultation paper on local government is the most refreshing document on the subject to come out of Whitehall for a generation. Admittedly, it is tentative and lists options rather than conclusions — reflecting a delicate balancing act between 10 Downing Street and the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions. But some of the ideas offer a chance of breaking out of the intellectual stalemate over central-local government relations that has developed over the past 20 years.

Ever since Anthony Crosland said more than 22 years ago that the "party is over" for council spending, Whitehall has trampled over local

authorities. It has limited and capped expenditure, centralised controls, and abolished the Greater London Council and metropolitan authorities. This has been done in the name of fiscal responsibility and defending local taxpayers against allegedly extremist and "loony left" authorities. The controls have, of course, affected the good as well as the bad. This has produced a self-fulfilling decline in local accountability as councils have become responsible for raising less and less of the money they spend and only take decisions at the margin.

Many Tories were quite content, seeing little real point in local government. Their solution to local accountability was to emphasise the

rights of people to exercise choice as consumers of services and as parents rather than through the ballot box. Such direct choice has many advantages over town hall paternalism. But there is still a role for councils in providing local services and as a regulator.

In opposition, Labour spokesmen talked of freeing up local authorities. Yet what confidence can voters have that their local authority will behave responsibly — especially when councillors are elected by only 40 per cent of the electorate? There

have been too many cases of inefficient and even corrupt councils to be comfortable with glib talk of reviving local democracy. The consultative document does not propose a return to the days before the mid-1970s: "The days of the all-purpose authority that planned and delivered everything are gone. It is in partnership with others — public agencies, private companies, community groups and voluntary organisations — that local government's future lies."

The key is to strengthen political links between councils and their voters. The Green Paper floats a number of sensible suggestions, including introducing annual elections, rather than every four years,

for those authorities that do not have them such as London boroughs, shire counties and some districts; the increased use of local referendums, citizens' juries and other forms of direct participation; executive mayors and a cabinet system; as well as improvements in electoral registration and voting arrangements to make it easier for people to vote.

It is questionable whether all this will be enough in one-party towns and districts. John Prescott has opposed proportional representation for local authorities — and changes in the voting system are brusquely dismissed in a sentence — but there is no longer any objection in principle after its introduction for

the Scottish parliament and the Welsh assembly.

Welcome though many of these ideas are, there will be many battles ahead since Tony Blair's advisers are more radical than those of the Environment Department. Moreover, these proposals still do not address the main financial dilemma. A further consultation paper is promised on local government finance, and there are few hints of radical thinking here. But unless councils have to raise most of the money they spend, and therefore have to defend the level of local taxes to their voters, any revival of local democracy will be limited.

PETER RIDDELL

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# Foreign servants get right to quit 'slavery'

FOREIGN domestic staff are to be given the right to leave their employers under plans to curb ill-treatment and improve working conditions.

The Government is to act after complaints from servants that they have been kept in conditions close to slavery and have been the subject of abuse, cruelty and beatings by employers. Most of the victims are women from the Philippines, Bangladesh, India and Africa who enter Britain as part of the domestic staff of foreigners.

Mike O'Brien, the Immigration Minister, has been holding talks with organisations campaigning for the women as part of moves to tackle the exploitation of up to 20,000 domestic workers in Britain. The campaigners argue that the present system encourages staff to leave their job, change their identity and take other work illegally.

The Government favours changing existing rules to enable domestic workers to leave their employers if they are abused and seek similar employment. They would not

Moves to curb abuse of domestic staff by employers follow reports of beatings, writes Richard Ford

be allowed to move into another area of employment and would have to produce evidence that they had been abused or ill-treated.

Mr O'Brien said: "We need to increase their protection and reduce the possibility of abuse, particularly physical

abuse of these often vulnerable and low-paid workers."

A Home Office review has ruled out withdrawing the 1980 concession that allows foreigners to bring their domestic servants with them, or giving them access to an airline ticket home. Under the concession, the servant's passport is stamped "employment prohibited" and states that they were admitted to Britain to accompany a particular employer.

They must work only for that employer and cannot apply to do domestic work for another person. As a result, the worker has no independent immigration status.

Those who take advantage of the concession are often from Middle Eastern states, who bring Filipina, Indian and Nepalese domestic staff with them, and those from

India, Bangladesh and African states, who rely on their own nationals as servants.

A survey of overseas domestic workers who had left their employers between January 1992 and March 1996 found that 66.6 per cent were not provided with a bed, 62 per cent had had their passports confiscated by their employers, almost 40 per cent alleged physical abuse including beatings and 90 per cent had been denied time off.

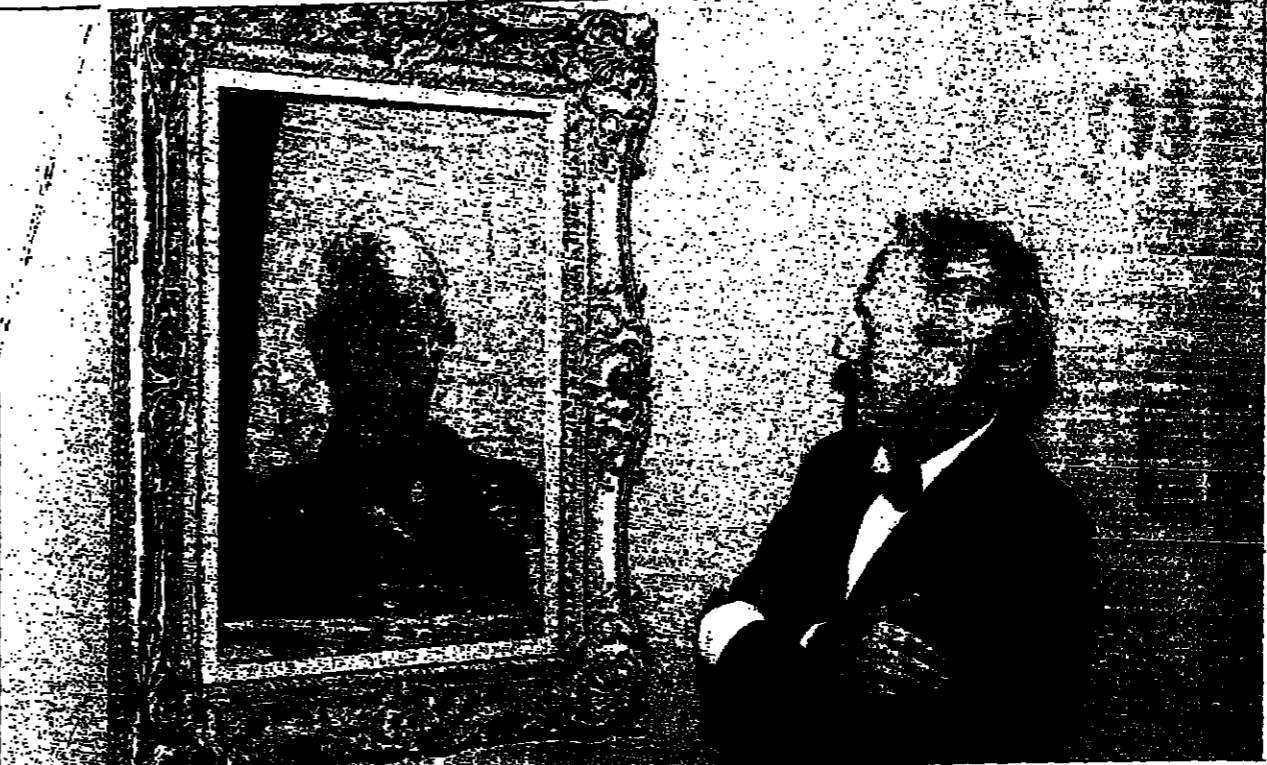
The study, conducted by Kalayaan, the campaign for justice for overseas domestic workers, found that the average number of hours worked a day was 17.7, with pay of £105 a month.

One woman who went to Kalayaan was Sarah, 42, a live-in maid from Mauritius with a Saudi family who had to sleep in a corridor without bedding or a pillow and had her wages of £100 a month withheld.

In another case a Nigerian nanny in Bexleyheath, south-east London, was whipped, beaten with high-heeled shoes and starved.



O'Brien: holding talks



Michel Terrasse with a self-portrait of his great-uncle, Pierre Bonnard, part of the exhibition at the Tate Gallery

## Master of feelings hated abstracts

THE great-nephew of Pierre Bonnard recalled yesterday how the French master used to tell him that, unless a painting represented something, it was "a monstrosity" (Dalya Albergé writes).

right with Bonnard's encouragement, said: "He used to say to me that art would never be able to live without nature, that when a painting was based on nothing, and didn't signify anything, it was just painting for the sake of painting and had no sense... It is

a monstrosity," he'd say. He felt you shouldn't "torture nature" so that it became abstract."

Speaking at the Tate Gallery, where a retrospective on Bonnard (1867-1947) will focus on him as a 20th-century master, M Terrasse added: "He told me that drawing was essential because it gave you a repertory of shapes to go back to: that the medium — whether oil, watercolour, gouache — was a means, but not an end in itself; and that you have to know if you are a painter of feelings or a decorative painter. He was un peintre de sentiments."

Bonnard, he recalled, began each day with a large glass of cold water and a long walk with his dog. That was the strict routine before he began putting paint to paper.

M Terrasse said: "As a teenager, he used to join him on those walks, noting how the master would suddenly take out a piece of paper and sketch something that caught his imagination: "One day, when out walking in the hills behind his house at Le Cannet, he said, 'Michel, you see those olive trees in those hills, I've looked at them

hundreds of times. Now they talk to me for the first time. Maybe it's because it had rained. The leaves were shining and had a special reflection on them. He took out a piece of paper and started to sketch."

M Terrasse, who often showed his work to the master, has kept letters to his parents "saying how impressed he was": "I've never shown those letters to anyone. But it was with his encouragement that I became a painter." Bonnard once asked him: "How do you do your whites?"

M Terrasse is donating the proceeds of his latest book on animals, to the Brigitte Bardot Foundation.

From Thursday, the Tate will be exhibiting more than 100 landscapes, still lifes and interiors from collections around the world. M Terrasse saw one of them, *Landscape with Roof*, 1945-46, being painted. Walking round the Tate, he said: "I feel my uncle is extremely happy with the show."

□ Bonnard, sponsored by Ernst & Young, is at the Tate from February 12 to May 17. £7 (conc £4.50)

## Actors fight to save the world a stage

BY DALYA ALBERGÉ, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

DAME JUDI DENCH, Sir Derek Jacobi, Janet Suzman and Lord Lloyd-Webber have joined a fight to save the Waterside Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon from being converted into a pub.

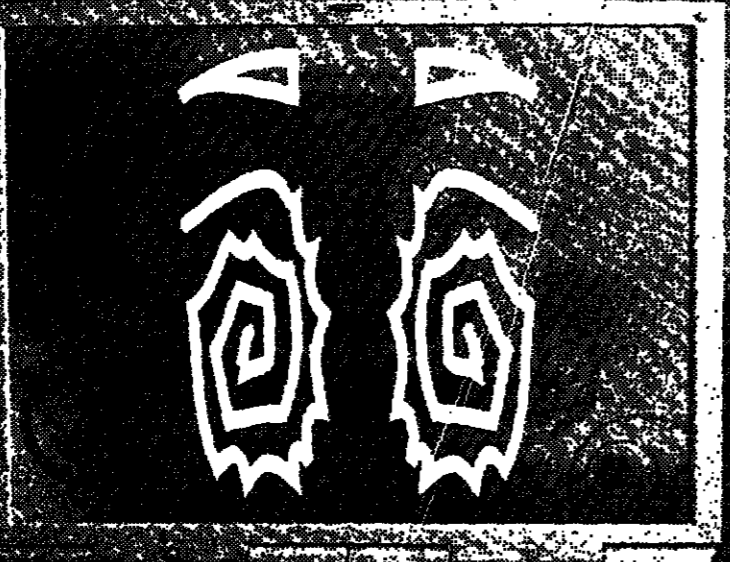
A public inquiry begins today to decide whether to allow the brewery JD Weatherspoon to redevelop the site. The theatre went into receivership last year.

Nigel Havers, another actor supporting the campaign,

said: "Aren't there enough pubs in Stratford already?"

Steve Newman, chairman of the theatre's Friends, said that in 1926, following the destruction of the original Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, Stratfordians were instrumental in rebuilding the theatre. "We are determined to show that Stratford wants the Waterside, not just as a venue for visiting professional and local amateur performances but as an educational centre."

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# Nigerian artillery and jets bombard Freetown

By Sam Kuper, Africa Correspondent

NIGERIA'S military dictatorship yesterday launched a big air and artillery offensive against Sierra Leone's military junta in a campaign that owes more to a desire for diamonds than a wish to reinstate democracy.

Artillery pounded the outskirts of Freetown, the capital, while bombers struck at the junta army's headquarters in a bid to destroy the leaders of a coup who took power from a democratic Government elected a year ago. They were backed in the interior by Kamajor warriors, an ancient brotherhood of hunters, mainly elderly men with shotguns, who threatened to take Kenema, a diamond-producing area that is close to huge reserves of bauxite.

The sudden upsurge in fighting left many dead in Freetown and trapped foreign aid workers inside their compounds in Kenema. Nigerian jets bombed Willberforce barracks in the west of Freetown, and artillery salvos echoed across the capital as thousands of civilians poured into the centre in search of safety.

Local military commanders claimed that they had shot down a fighter-bomber that had crashed in the mangrove swamps that encircle the city. General Sani Abacha, Nigeria's leader, has insisted that his forces are operating in Nigeria as part of Ecomog, a West African peacekeeping force charged with restoring democratic rule to Freetown. However, as Ghana, Ivory Coast, Guinea and Senegal have refused to participate in the offensive, it is clear that Nigeria's West African neighbours remain cynical about General Abacha's intentions towards the tiny, mineral-rich state of Sierra Leone.

Nigerians are not the only people to have been fighting for Sierra Leone's diamonds. Executive Outcomes, a South African-based mercenary organisation, won prospecting licences in the early 1990s in return for fighting Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front, which joined forces with the army and deposed elected President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah last year.

Intelligence sources said South African "dogs of war" continue to fight alongside the Kamajors in the hope of securing access to diamonds and other minerals. Yesterday a pirate radio station loyal to Mr Kabbah said the Nigerian-led peacekeepers were moving towards Freetown from Rutaa, about six miles from the city centre, and urged civilians to stay off the streets.

# Charity buys freedom for Sudanese slaves

Karin Davies in Madhol sees some of the children taken as war booty rejoin their families

STACKS of money pass from the Christian foreigners to the Muslim trader, an exchange anxiously watched by a 12-year-old girl with diamonds of sweat on her brow.

The Sudanese trader, his lap buried by currency worth 25,000 waves, carefully to free his merchandise: 132 slaves. Akuc Malong, the Dinka girl, is among them. She has spent seven years enslaved by an Arab in northern Sudan.

Her brilliant smile belies the beatings, near-starvation, mutilation and attempted brainwashing she endured. "I thought it would be better to die than to remain a slave," Akuc says.

Trafficking in humans has intensified again with civil war in Africa's largest and poorest country, according to John Eibner of Christian Solidarity International, a humanitarian group that bought Akuc's freedom.

For all but a decade since Sudan's independence in 1956, southern rebels, mainly black Christians and followers of tribal religions, have fought for autonomy from the national Government in Khartoum, which is dominated by northern Arabs. The southerners believe the north is trying to impose Islam and the Arabic language and to monopolise Sudan's wealth.

Much of the fighting on the government side is done by local militias. Unpaid, their bounty is as old as war itself - slaves. Sudan's radical Islamic leaders encourage soldiers to take slaves as their compensation, according to United Nations investigators and the American State Department. Young women and children are the most valuable booty.

The Sudanese Government denies condoning slavery, insisting that the practice persists because holding prisoners for ransom is a tradition rooted in tribal disputes. But Paul Malong Awani, a regional rebel commander, said enslavement is a government tactic to weaken the morale and military might of the south. Many of the blacks taken away are Dinkas, the biggest ethnic group in southern Sudan.



Akuc Malong shows her joy as she is reunited with her mother after seven years and, below, an Arab trader leads 132 former slaves to freedom after he was paid £8,000. Sudan's radical Islamic leaders encourage unpaid soldiers to take young girls in lieu of their wages

Christian Solidarity International estimates that tens of thousands of black slaves are owned by Arabs in northern Sudan. The Swiss-based charity has made more than a dozen risky, clandestine bush flights to southern Sudan to redeem 800 slaves since 1995, most recently in Madhol, 720 miles southwest of Khartoum.

Akuc's mother, Abuong Malong, sobs when she sees her daughter for the first time in seven years. "It's like she's been born again." She recognises her only from her straight, square teeth. "She was very small when she was taken, her features have changed, but she came back with the same spirit."

Akuc was sold to an Arab who made her wash clothes, haul water, gather firewood and help with cooking. She survived on table scraps and slept in the kitchen. "I was badly treated," Akuc says.

Her master also tried to make her a Muslim - taking her to mosque and giving her the Arabic name of Fatima. But Akuc says she maintained her Christian faith, praying and singing hymns in secret and never forgetting her true name. "My name is my name and nobody can change that." (AP)



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# Kohl faces new campaign to postpone euro

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMAN opponents of the euro closed ranks yesterday for a final charge against Helmut Kohl's cherished project of a common European currency.

The last-ditch attempt to postpone European economic and monetary union — in the form of mass petitions, legal and technical objections — comes at one of the most critical periods of the Chancellor's 15 years in power.

Unemployment has edged close to the five million level and has started to stir up street protests. The possibility that these demonstrations might link up with an anti-euro crusade is spreading alarm in the Bonn Government.

Almost 160 German and Austrian professors have drawn up a manifesto appeal-

ing for an "orderly postponement" of the euro and insisting that such a delay "has to be seriously considered as a political option".

Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, tried to play down the appeal. "In September 1997, 50 famous economic professors called for the punctual introduction of the euro and gave convincing reasons. Now another group is contradicting them. But economic reason cannot be swept aside by accidental majorities; only the arguments count," he said.

The manifesto, published in the form of a letter to the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* and the *Financial Times* yesterday, coincides with the launch of two books which will take the postponement case to the German

people. One is by Reimut Jochimsen, a senior Bundesbank director, who is calling for the strictest possible interpretation of the Maastricht treaty. The Bundesbank, he says, will have to pass judgment not only on Germany's suitability for EMU but also those of other candidates.

A second book is a rushed, paperback version of the petition to the Constitutional Court lodged last month by senior academics. Professor Karl Albrecht Schachtschneider, one of the four petitioners, has been asked by the court to produce 25 copies of the 350-page complaint so that comments can be sought from the Bundesbank and the Government. That, says the law professor, is a sign that the court is ready to take the euro complaint seriously.

From Thursday, the Germans will be able to read the arguments themselves; tens of thousands of copies of the petition are being ferried to shops in anticipation of it becoming a bestseller.

The Bundesbank will compile its own assessment and this will be the one most likely to influence the German parliament. The calculation has been that Herr Kohl will be able to stampee this enabling legislation through. The deputies have only three weeks — from April 2 to 24 — to prod the Bill through three readings, consultation by six committees, and pass it in the upper chamber, the Bundesrat.

But the Chancellor has become a weaker political figure over the past six months. Some older politicians are not returning after the general elections in September and have little to lose by breaking party ranks. Others may try to boost their standing in the constituencies by insisting on delay rather than on the punctual introduction of a weak euro.

# Italy recasts image of Renaissance man

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

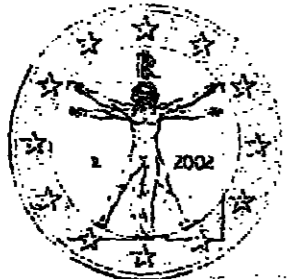
ITALY, brushing aside doubts about whether it will join the European single currency in May — not to mention accusations that it has massaged its budget figures in its bid to qualify — yesterday boldly launched its chosen designs for the euro coins to replace the lira.

Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the Treasury and Budget Minister, announced that Leonardo

da Vinci's figure of *Renaissance Man* would grace the one-euro coin. Other winning emblems include Sandro Botticelli's *Birth of Venus* (on the 50-cent coin), Dante Alighieri, the medieval author of the visions of hell and paradise in the *Divine Comedy* (on the two-euro coin), and the Colosseum (on the five-cent coin).

*Renaissance Man* was chosen by the Government, but the other images were chosen in a telephone vote. Signor Ciampi said the Leonardo figure offered a sense of dynamism combined with measurement and the concept of service to mankind.

Arcigay, the national gay rights organisation, said it was a triumph for "tolerance, liberty and diversity in Europe", on the grounds that Leonardo was a homosexual, despite recent reports that he may have had a mistress.



The one-euro coin with Leonardo's figure

Anatole Kaletsky, page 18 Letters, page 19

# Prince thrilled by archers of medieval kingdom

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Prince of Wales yesterday stepped back in time to the Kingdom of the Thunder Dragon, becoming the first member of the British royal family to visit Bhutan, a Himalayan enclave where little has changed for centuries.

Arriving in Bhutan, bordered by India, China and Tibet, is like travelling back in time to a medieval realm where archery is the national pastime and minstrels wander the countryside.

Bhutan is only slowly opening up to the outside world after centuries of self-imposed isolation. Modernity and Western influences are discouraged by the British-educated King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, 42.

Critics, including Amnesty International, accuse the King of being an absolute ruler, bent on ensuring cultural purity. There is no local television station and satellite and cable television are outlawed. The only traffic lights have been removed because they were not necessary.

The Prince, who is on the final leg of a three-nation Asian tour, is one of the relatively few people allowed to visit Bhutan. He has always wanted to see the country and is indulging his love of architecture, touring Tibetan-style Buddhist monasteries, known as *dzongs*, and will trek in the Himalayas.

At Kyichu Temple, built 1,300 years ago, the Prince stood before one of the holiest statues in Bhutan, depicting Buddha as a prince at the age of eight, and lit a candle. The scent of incense filled the air as the Prince studied wall paintings in natural colours, made only from vegetables, and a red-robed monk explained the deities represented by the many statues.

Next stop was the Ugyen Peiri Palace, where the Prince was entertained by traditional singers and dancers who braved an archery display — arrows flew over their heads — to put on an outdoor show.

The Bhutanese archers, using modern bows, managed to hit targets from more than 150 yards.



A masked dancer performs for the Prince of Wales in Paro, Bhutan, yesterday

# Generals line up with 'Nazi salute scapegoat'

BY ROGER BOYES

GERMAN generals have mounted an unusual show of solidarity with a tank commander who was moved from his post after videos of neo-Nazi salutes were filmed by soldiers under his command.

The discreet but unmistakable protest against the decision of Volker Rühle, the Defence Minister, to move the commander came at the handing-over ceremony of the 13th Tank Grenadier division in Leipzig at the weekend. Major-General Michael von Scotti was posted early after the discovery of privately filmed tapes of soldiers raising their arms in the Hitler salute.

The general, however, said he had not taken up his post in eastern Germany at the time of the filming, and his area of responsibility — including Berlin, Saxony and Thuringia — was so wide as to exclude personal blame. General von Scotti clearly believed he was being made a scapegoat for far-right activities in the German army, and many of his colleagues seem to share his sense of injustice.

No fewer than 37 generals turned up for the ceremony at the weekend, including General Dieter Stoockmann, Nato commander for Central Europe. They were joined by scores of divisional commanders and lower-ranking staff officers. When General von Scotti thanked "my comrades for silently expressing their solidarity", the assembled officers gave him an ovation lasting several minutes. At a reception later, General von Scotti talked of being "banned" from Leipzig. The city has collected a petition protesting at his removal.

The Defence Ministry denies that the general was made a scapegoat but has not offered a satisfactory explanation for the southern posting. Army sources have long known of a group of conservative tank officers who, through family connections and regimental gatherings, keep in touch with wartime veterans.

Defence Ministry sources admit there is a problem about how military tradition should be interpreted.

# World in Brief

## Chinese police round up dissidents

Police have begun a round-up of China's tiny dissident community in the wake of the arrest last week of Wang Bingzhang, an American-based dissident who had secretly entered the country (Jonathan Mirsky writes).

Yang Qinheng and Zhang Ruijun were held in Shanghai after being in contact with Mr Wang.

## Assassins fail

Tbilisi: President Shevardnadze of Georgia survived an assassination attempt by grenade-launcher on his convoy in the centre of Tbilisi yesterday, the Iprinda news agency reported. (AFP)

## Metro death

Moscow: A ten-year-old girl, who left a note at home saying she was going to kill herself, jumped in front of a Moscow underground train. Tass said. Police said it was unclear why she wanted to die. (AP)

## Gang kills ten

Dushanbe: A gang in Tursumzade, near the Tajik capital, shot dead two brothers and their mother and then killed seven people at a bus stop whom they thought had witnessed the attack. (Reuters)

## Corsican claim

Ajaccio: Unidentified Corsican separatists claimed responsibility for the killing of Claude Engnac, the island's regional prefect, and said that the murder was "highly political". (Reuters)

## Vintage sale

Paris: Maxim's announced it will auction 14,000 bottles of fine wine — or 20 per cent of its wine stock — at its New York restaurant on March 7. Some of Maxim's wines date from around 1800. (AP)

## Battle resumes in earthquake zone

Karachi: The earthquake in northern Afghanistan has failed to prevent renewed fighting between warring factions as new tremors forced thousands of villagers to flee (Zahid Hussain writes).

A spokesman for the Islamic Taliban militia blamed the opposition "northern alliance" for provoking the latest clashes in Bangi, 40 miles from Takhar province, which was devastated by an earthquake and aftershocks. The alliance denied responsibility, saying its forces had been ordered to join the rescue operation.

The charity Médecins sans Frontières made the first estimate by a foreign aid agency of those killed in the disaster, putting the number at more than 4,000, with many more injured or made homeless. Afghan officials said they had buried more than 3,800 bodies.

There is no independent confirmation of the reports of fighting but aid agencies said they could not be ruled out.

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# Zhirinovskiy booze cruise to Baghdad left high and dry in Caucasus

FROM RICHARD BRESTON  
IN YEREVAN

## RUSSIA

ATTEMPTS by Russian parliamentarians to launch an eleventh-hour peace mission to Iraq ground unceremoniously to a halt in the Caucasus yesterday as the humanitarian mission degenerated into a flying circus.

As Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the ultra-nationalist leader, ranted against American imperialism and other pet hates, his bizarre peace mission was forced to wait in Armenia while the United Nations and Iran decided whether it could

proceed to Baghdad. Mr Zhirinovskiy, an outspoken supporter of Libya's Colonel Gaddafi, various Serbian war criminals and assorted right-wing extremists across Europe, seemed to be enjoying the ill-fated mission to visit his old friend President Saddam Hussein.

Although the hold of the giant Ilyushin 86 airliner is carrying more than seven tonnes of medicines for Iraqi children, the real purpose of the trip was indisput-

ably seated in the first-class passenger cabin where the nationalist leader held forth to other travellers between puffs on Cuban cigars.

"We are trying to bring medicines to Iraq and are being prevented. The Americans bring warships, rockets and fighters, but nobody stops them. Is Moscow going to help us or sit quietly like some American colony?" he shouted at regular intervals during the flight.

"The airstrikes planned for Iraq today are like Hitler's bombing raids on Spain in the 1930s," he thundered. "That was the first

chapter of the Second World War. Our historic mission is to prevent the start of the Third World War."

While his comments were not new, the politician did have the benefit of a captive audience of more than 100 journalists for nearly 24 hours, the best media exposure he has enjoyed since his failed presidential campaign two years ago.

Other minor politicians were enjoying the spotlight as well, among them a Cossack *ataman* (leader), several communist backbenchers, a number of Russian Muslim delegates and a retired

general who was involved in the failed uprising against President Yeltsin in 1993.

However, even the most dedicated reporters lost interest in the debate, particularly when Mr Zhirinovskiy became boisterous. By journey's end most of the politicians and the press had gravitated to the back of the plane to join an impromptu party fuelled by free vodka, brandy and beer.

Some cynics on the flight suggested that Yerevan, the Armenian capital, was chosen as a staging point to Baghdad because of its famous brandy, while Iran was

ruled out because of its ban on alcohol. Whatever the reasons, Mr Zhirinovskiy wasted little time switching his verbal onslaught from the Middle East to the Caucasus as soon as he landed in Yerevan early yesterday. Certainly his hosts were delighted when he suggested that all Armenian lands held by Turkey should be returned immediately. For good measure, he also railed against the leader of Armenia's old enemy, Azerbaijan.

It is an open secret in Moscow that Yevgeni Primakov, the accomplished Foreign Minister at the centre of efforts to find a compro-

mise to the showdown, does not want to see Mr Zhirinovskiy's loud and highly undiplomatic mission ever reach Baghdad. Others suggest, unkindly, that Mr Zhirinovskiy's opponents want to delay his trip to ensure he will be in Baghdad when it is bombed by American and British forces.

In the meantime, the peace plane is being loaded up with fresh provisions and drinks for its next stage, wherever that may be.

□ Rome: President Veltsin arrived here for talks with the Pope and the Italian Government in efforts to avert the bombing.

# Turkish forces enter Iraq to seal border

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

## MILITARY BUILD-UP

TURKEY launched thousands of troops across its border with Iraq as Washington yesterday announced it was sending up to 3,000 extra ground troops to Kuwait.

Although a Turkish military spokesman denied that any soldiers had entered Iraq, private television networks and newspapers published correspondents' first-hand accounts of the incursions. The Turkish media said their reports had been confirmed by villagers who act as mountain guides for the troops.

Ankara has made clear its determination to prevent a repeat of what happened after the 1991 Gulf War, when hundreds of thousands of Kurds sought refuge inside Turkey.

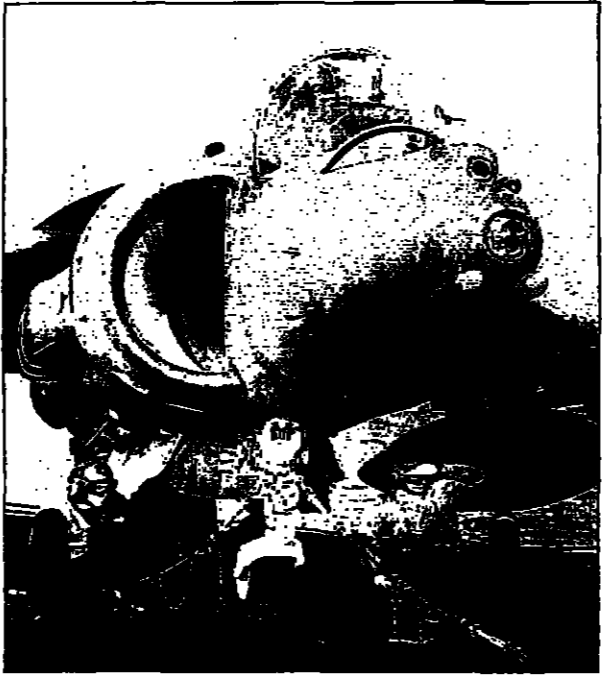
William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, signalled that diplomatic options in the Iraqi crisis were fading fast and that America and Britain would soon be forced to bomb Baghdad. He said in Kuwait that President Saddam Hussein's continuing intransigence over access for United Nations weapons inspectors would be to blame for a future conflict.

"The window of opportunity for a diplomatic solution is not getting wider, it is getting narrower," he said. "If diplomacy fails, Saddam Hussein is solely responsible for the consequences."

Officials travelling with Mr Cohen said the US had decided to deploy ground troops in Kuwait to ensure the country's security and to discourage what they described as "creative thinking" by Saddam.

In Washington, Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, said that the US had the authority, responsibility, means and will to launch "not pinpricks but substantial strikes" against Iraq.

Mr Cohen's comments came after a night of lengthy negotiations in Saudi Arabia during which America's biggest and richest ally in the Gulf offered Mr Cohen tacit support for military action but



RAF ground crew prepare for the launch of a GR7 Sea Harrier from HMS Invincible yesterday

armed forces was solely to defend Kuwait. "The aim and the target is not to go into Iraq land unless it is a matter of defending Kuwait," he said.

Bulent Ecevit, Turkey's Deputy Foreign Minister, yesterday accused Britain and America of wanting to carve out a satellite Kurdish state in Iraq. One of the reasons behind the current crisis was the US desire to keep the price of oil high, he said in an interview with *Milliyet* newspaper.

Mr Ecevit's concern, that Turkey is being dragged into a conflict against its own best interests, signalled a weakening in the support which Ankara has given to Washington. It seems inevitable, however, that the Turkish military, rather than the Cabinet, will decide how far to back the military option.

While Turkey says it will not allow its Incirlik airbase to be used for bombing runs, it has already given its consent for reconnaissance and air-rescue missions.

Ankara's main objective is to see the lifting of economic sanctions against Iraq, which it says have cost more than £20 billion in lost business. Ismail Cem, the Turkish Foreign Minister, was sent to Baghdad last week in an apparently fruitless attempt to persuade Saddam to comply with weapons inspection in return for an end to the trade embargo.

□ New York: Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, cancelled his Middle East tour to be ready to intervene in the crisis, possibly with a mission to Baghdad (James Bone writes). He is under pressure from Iraq's friends to visit Baghdad to ratify a compromise proposed by the Arab League in consultation with France and Russia.

"The discussions and the search for a diplomatic solution has reached a critical stage and my presence is needed here," Mr Annan said at his office here.



Iraqi women student volunteers undergoing military training at a sports centre in Baghdad yesterday

## Plan would allow entry to 70 sites

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU  
IN NICOSIA

DETAILS of a new plan to end the crisis were revealed yesterday by the Arab League under which arms experts would be allowed access to nearly 70 sites for up to two months.

Esmat Abdel-Meguid, the league's Secretary-General, who has been working with Iraq, France and Russia for a diplomatic solution, said that the proposals would be put to the United Nations Security Council as a draft resolution. "This is a serious attempt by some permanent members of the council to solve the situation peacefully," he said. In

## ARAB LEAGUE

particular, eight presidential sites at the centre of the latest dispute would be open to inspection by a special team under a chairman nominated by Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General of the UN.

The compromise plan falls short of American and British demands for full Iraqi compliance and it was unclear whether President Saddam Hussein was seeking a face-saving formula or was playing for time.

Eight British Tornado bombers were due to arrive in Kuwait, while four American warships passed through Suez on the way to the Gulf.

The Gulf states have joined the US in warning that Saddam would be responsible for "grave" consequences if he did not comply with UN resolutions. Yesterday, however, Mr Abdel-Meguid said the use of force would be a "catastrophe, not only for Iraq but for the whole region".

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سكوا من الأصل

# Cigar ads under fire from US health watchdog

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

FEDERAL health officials, alarmed by spiralling sales and the fashion for cigar-smoking among women and the young, may soon require cigar advertisements to carry the US Surgeon-General's health warning, just as cigarette commercials do.

The move, being considered by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), is among measures to bring the regulation of cigars into line with cigarettes. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, the FTC is particularly concerned about the use of "product placement" in films to glamorise cigar-smoking. A report by the American Lung Association found that, in a survey of 133 films, at least 40 per cent featured the smoking of celebratory cigars or had scenes that "promoted cigars subliminally".

The decision to regulate the cigar industry more closely comes in the wake of an astonishing boom. After a steady decline over two decades, American sales of cigars have climbed 53 per cent since 1993. Much of this increased consumption has come not from "old fogies with stogies" — who previously constituted the cigar bedrock — but from smokers

under 40. Most spectacular is the fashion for women to smoke cigars.

The FTC has indicated that it may soon ask the industry to give the Government details of annual sales and advertising expenditure. This would give regulators a clearer picture of the nexus between film producers and cigar-makers. The National Cancer Institute is to publish a report on cigars next month that will address some popular beliefs, particularly the view that they are relatively safe and non-addictive.

According to the report, cigar-smokers are four to ten times more likely to die from cancer of the mouth, larynx and oesophagus than non-smokers. The study finds that, because cigars are more alkaline than cigarettes, tar, nicotine and other chemical compounds can pass directly through the lining of the mouth and throat into the bloodstream.

Cigar-smokers, however, are unlikely to respond to the report with a collective shiver of panic. The opulent lines of a Romeo y Julieta, or a Don Juan Urquijo, have largely replaced the attenuated elegance of cigarette-holders in the imagery of smoky glamour.



Vanessa Williams was criticised for smoking

The cigar is now big business and big style. No American city is without its stable of cigar bars, which are patronised as much by women as by men. Indeed, magazines such as *Cigar Aficionado* and *Smoke* make a point of adorning their covers with cigar-smoking models. Last year *Smoke* featured the actress Elle Macpherson on its cover with a fat Cuesta Rey Maduro No 2 clenched between her teeth. She was criticised by doctors and family associations in America and her native Australia for saying that "cigar-smoking has become such a fashionable thing now".

More recently, the actress Vanessa Williams caught the nation's imagination by smoking a cigar at the premiere of her film *Eraser*. Inevitably, she drew fire for "setting a bad example to America's young".



Rescuers try to pull a horse from the surging Little Pine Creek in California as swollen rivers and flash floods caused by a series of Pacific storms killed at least 18 people in the state over the weekend. The animal, which slipped about 100ft down a landslide into the river, was pulled free after two hours in the water (Giles Whittell writes). A state of emergency has

## California storms kill 18

been declared in much of California. The seasonal storms, strengthened by the El Niño effect, pounded the coast with heavy surf, drenched inland areas and dumped up to 9 ft of snow on the Sierra Nevada mountains. Northern California has

already received three times its usual February rainfall. A teenager was swept to his death from a beach near Santa Cruz and an 84-year-old former stunt man died when his car fell into a ravine in Los Angeles, but the worst casualties were south of the

border in Mexico. Flash floods roared through shanty towns in the sprawling border city of Tijuana, killing 14, including two sisters who drowned in a stalled car while their father searched for help. Six homes in Rio Nido, north of San Francisco, slid down a rain-weakened hillside. Another storm is expected to hit the northern half of the state tomorrow.

## President's pursuers fear ballot backlash

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

KENNETH STARR, the independent prosecutor, could pass the investigation of sex and perjury allegations against President Clinton to Congress if he fails to mount a legally watertight case. Republicans are speculating.

As unequivocal evidence of a sexual relationship between the President and Monica Lewinsky, a former trainee, continues to elude Mr Starr, leading figures in the Republican-controlled Congress considered whether they would be asked to pick up the baton.

That move could prolong the investigation throughout much of the remainder of Mr Clinton's time in office, while adding to its partisan vitriol, a prospect dreaded by the White House. But Republicans also fear the political backlash if they were seen to be pursuing a partisan witch-hunt against a highly popular President.

Trent Lott, the Senate ma-

jority leader, yesterday urged Republicans to be cautious in talking of impeachment because "it is too early to judge the situation". Referring to opinion polls showing strong support for the President, he added: "I think they're sitting on a precipice and they could teeter over it".

The latest *Wall Street Journal*/NBC opinion poll found that 79 per cent approve of how Mr Clinton is doing his job. Just 22 per cent thought Mr Starr was conducting an impartial investigation; 57 per cent said that the case should be dropped.

Another attempted deal under which Ms Lewinsky would co-operate with Mr Starr in return for immunity from prosecution collapsed acrimoniously. Mr Starr's failure to agree terms for getting Ms Lewinsky's testimony has been his greatest stumbling block in proving that the

President lied on oath about a sexual relationship and urged Ms Lewinsky to cover it up.

Mr Starr's office said that it wanted her to give them a face-to-face interview, and possibly also take a lie-detector test before granting her immunity. They are believed to be concerned about her credibility as a witness. But William Ginsburg, Ms Lewinsky's lawyer, said she would give those interviews only after being granted immunity.

However, under the Constitution, he could hand on the investigation to congressional committees, even with an incompletely established case, the option now beginning to exercise Capitol Hill. Under the Independent Counsel Act, the prosecutor is required to report to the House of Representatives any "substantial and credible" evidence that the President may have committed an impeachable offence.



Whoopi Goldberg welcomes the Clintons to a show she hosted at a Washington theatre

## Middle America puts gays beyond the pale

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

THE American middle classes are tolerant of virtually everything except homosexuality, argues a new book to be published next month.

The book, *One Nation, After All* by Alan Wolfe, a professor at Boston University and America's pre-eminent sociologist, is the most detailed picture of the American suburban classes to be published in decades.

Professor Wolfe writes that middle-class Americans are reluctant to pass judgment on others and are "tolerant to a fault" of all races, religions, lifestyles and practices, "with the conspicuous exception of homosexuality". When it comes to assessing gay men and lesbians, the book says, the middle-class Everyman discards his acceptance of an "accommodating, pluralistic society".

This apparent contradiction, detected by Professor Wolfe after interviews with 200 people in the suburbs of Tulsa, Atlanta, San Diego and Boston, is explained by the fact that suburban Americans are neither doctrinaire nor dogmatic. The book says: "Middle-class morality is what it is because it has no politics. It is an outlook on the world that grows up from personal experience, not down from ideological commitment."

The author advances the thesis that middle-class Americans are divided within themselves: "Most people want to be traditional and modern at the same time."

But how do middle-class Americans reconcile their belief in freedom with their condemnation of homosexuality? Professor Wolfe suggests that the distinction may well be made at an instinctive level. They have perhaps concluded that, if the distinction between right and wrong is to be applied anywhere, it should be applied here.

Americans believe that homosexuality is a choice, unlike being black, Mexican or a woman. Professor Wolfe cites a number of words that were used by his interviewees to characterise homosexuality: abnormal, immoral, unacceptable, unhealthy and wrong. He writes: "Both the size of the group willing to condemn homosexuality, and the vehemence with which they did so, indicated that here is indeed the ultimate test of American tolerance: the line separating gay America from straight America is a line that an unusually large number of middle-class Americans are unwilling to cross."

□ *One Nation, After All* by Alan Wolfe, Viking, New York, \$24.95

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# Was Diana pregnant?

## Death of a PRINCESS

Today *The Times* begins a five-day serialisation of the most searching journalistic investigation yet into the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. In the first of three pages of extracts from their new book, **Thomas Sancton and Scott MacLeod** reveal details of the missing pregnancy test files from Diana's medical dossier

On Saturday, September 6, 1997, in Britain's largest public funeral since the death of Winston Churchill, the flag-draped coffin of Diana, Princess of Wales, was drawn on a gun carriage through Central London by six horses, accompanied by 12 red-jacketed Welsh Guards and followed on foot by her sons William and Harry, Prince Charles, Prince Philip and her brother Earl Spencer. After the service in Westminster Abbey, the Princess was laid to rest on a peaceful island amid a lake at her ancestral home in Althorp, some 70 miles northwest of London.

The tranquillity of her final resting place contrasted with the tempest of rumours, myths and interrogations that swirled up following her death. Word began to spread that she had been pregnant at the time of her death. Under normal circumstances, that would have been a purely private matter — an additional cause for sadness if true, pointless and idle gossip if not. But the Princess's violent death was not a normal event. And the question of whether or not she was pregnant is one of the most explosive elements in the investigation, because a pregnancy would give greater credence to the assassination plot theories that began in the Middle East and soon proliferated around the globe.

For the mother of the future King of England to bear the child of an Arab and a Muslim, a child who would be the half-sibling of the heir to the throne, would be embarrassing and problematic in the eyes of the Royal Family and the ruling Establishment. If a pregnancy were confirmed, the conspiracy theories would be uncontainable. There could theoretically be consequences for Britain's relations with the Arab world and resentment among the 1.5 million Muslim population living in Britain.

Most of the "proof" of the Princess's alleged pregnancy is circumstantial. Some photos of her in St Tropez do show a little roll in the stomach, but it could just as easily be the normal midriff of a 36-year-old woman in a bathing suit. For a pregnancy to be visible, the foetus would have to be at least three or four months old. The Princess and Dodi got together only in mid-July, making it unlikely that any conception could have taken place longer than six weeks earlier (unless the father were someone other than Dodi). Stories that the couple had started dating as early as 1996 are untrue, according to sources close to both of them.

It is also pointed out that on August 30 Diana told her friend, the journalist Richard Kay, that she was reducing her official duties and clearing her calendar from November. That could add credibility to the pregnancy theory. Then there was her provocative statement to the British journalist in St Tropez: "You will have a big surprise coming soon, the next thing I do." Some have suggested that the "surprise" could have been wedding plans — perhaps accompanied by a pregnancy. But the Princess's unambiguous remark was made before Dodi even showed up in St Tropez.

Concrete evidence is more difficult to come by. There was a document, purportedly a confidential letter from a French doctor to Interior Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement, stating that Diana was nine to ten weeks pregnant. A photocopy of this letter circulated among several French

publications. But the document, of dubious authenticity, was denounced as a fake by the Interior Ministry and the hospital. Consequently, no French news outlet ever published it. But there were allusions to a possible pregnancy in the mainstream press. *Time* magazine, in its edition of September 22, 1997, stated that a doctor claimed to have been told by a colleague, who treated the Princess in the tunnel, that she had made a rubbing gesture on her belly and informed him that she was "six weeks pregnant". Though the magazine had carefully couched this second-hand anecdote in a paragraph on "lies, conspiracy theories and outrageous tales", the passage was taken out of context and widely misquoted as "proof" that Diana was

pregnant. In fact, *Time* had merely relayed what a reporter was told by the doctor; there was no way of knowing if he, or his anonymous colleague, was accurately quoting the Princess's words. Given the conflicting accounts about whether she spoke at all after the accident, this story does not seem entirely convincing.

### A physician claims that the Princess's test results were removed from her medical file

Under the heading of second-hand accounts, a respected French journalist related the following story to the authors: a physician he knows personally, who works at Pitié-Salpêtrière, told him that blood tests taken on the Princess's arrival showed that she was indeed pregnant. This physician, who identified his source as a member of the medical team that operated on the Princess, added that when he looked in her medical dossier several days after her death, all the test results had been removed. His medical source refused to be interviewed for this book. Thus there is no way of verifying this.

But it is possible to examine the extent to which it may be considered plausible. It is necessary to know whether doctors would have drawn blood and tested for pregnancy while fighting desperately for a tra-

uma victim's life. The answer is yes: they would have taken blood samples to identify the blood type (for transfusion purposes) and measure the degree of haemorrhaging with a test that counts the different kinds of blood cells. In most cases, other tests would normally be done, for example, to evaluate the coagulability of the blood, measure the level of electrolytes in the blood serum and, for women of childbearing age, a Beta-HCG test for pregnancy.

In the US, according to Dr David Wasserman, an experienced American emergency room physician, the Beta-HCG would be fairly standard. "The doctors would want to know if a patient was pregnant or not," says Wasserman. "It wouldn't stop them from giving her life-saving treatment, but it would do elective procedures that might harm the foetus."

According to a prominent French specialist in emergency medicine, obliged to speak anonymously because of the medical secrecy required by French law, it would be "reasonable and rational", though not obligatory, for French emergency physicians to do the Beta-HCG. He stresses, though, that for an emergency doctor with a medical catastrophe on his hands, his primary concern would not be knowing if the woman was pregnant or not. He notes, however, that another standard, obligatory measure could reveal the presence of a foetus. In addition to a brain scan and an X-ray of the thoracic region, he says, the emergency room doctors would have done a sonogram. This technique, which examines internal organs via the reflection of ultrasonic waves, would be performed primarily to identify lesions and check the accumulation of blood in bodily cavities. But a sonogram will also produce the recognisable image of a foetus, with the head and folded-up body clearly visible even to the layman. (Though a foetus younger than three weeks could be detected only by a specialist.) This specialist cautions that, under emergency medical conditions, a doctor would not necessarily see a foetus on the sonogram screen unless he was looking for one, which could be obscured by massive haemorrhaging. At six weeks, however, the foetus would probably be visible. It is



The picture of the Princess in St Tropez that fuelled the pregnancy and conspiracy theories

possible, says this specialist, that photos were made from the sonogram screen that might show a foetus. If a permanent image was made, it would be included in the medical dossier, along with all the blood test results.

Thus, if the Princess was pregnant, there is a very strong chance that the evidence would be in her medical dossier at the hospital. As for the whereabouts of the medical file, this specialist, who is not connected with Pitié-Salpêtrière and claims no first-hand knowledge, speculates that: "It is probably locked up in a safe. I can't see it being archived like an ordinary file."

In addition to hospital officials, it is likely that the police also have a copy of the Princess's file. In cases of

violent or suspicious deaths, where an official investigation is opened, copies of the victim's medical records are usually requisitioned by the Prefecture of Police, under the ultimate authority of Interior Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement. Thus any evidence suggesting that the Princess was pregnant would be in the hands of the police.

According to sources with access to the official investigation dossier, none of the Princess's medical records is included. There is only a succinct report on the pathologist's external corporeal examination. The French pathologist, Dr Dominique Lecomte, did not perform a post mortem examination on the Princess and, according to what a police report describes as "instructions received", drew no blood sample from the body. In Britain, a post mortem on the Princess's body was carried out for the Fulham Coroner's office, which would certainly have discovered the presence of a foetus. When questioned about pregnancy reports, a coroner's office spokesman replied: "No comment. That's part of the investigation."

A full-scale public inquest by the Royal Coroner, Dr John Burton, will be held on completion of the French investigation. But Burton has the right to take any part of the proceedings in camera. It seems highly unlikely, therefore, that he would reveal any information confirming a pregnancy.

The information available leaves open the possibility that the Princess may have been pregnant. In the future, the release of documents or testimony now withheld may answer this key question. But one thing is certain: the evidence does exist to prove or disprove a pregnancy.

### An earring, shoes and a bracelet

ONE OF the first tasks following the crash was to collect the objects left in the car by the occupants. The inventory of these artefacts — plucked by anonymous hands from the intimacy of pockets and bodies and thrown into a plastic pouch — tells a poignant story.

**DIANA'S effects:**  
A Jaeger-LeCoultre gold watch with white stones  
A bracelet with six rows of white pearls and a clasp in the form of a dragon  
A gold ring with white stones  
One gold earring (on October 22, investigators found the other earring under the dashboard of the wrecked car)  
A pair of black Versace high-heeled shoes  
A black Ralph Lauren woman's belt

**DODI'S effects:**  
Fr 1,000 in the form of five Fr 200 notes  
A rectangular Cartier watch with a maroon-coloured crocodile watchband  
A Breitling chronograph watch, in working condition, with no watchband  
A white metal watchband with a Breitling trademark  
A Citizen watch, non-working, with the hour frozen at 12.00  
A fawn-coloured leather cigar-holder containing one cigar with no band  
A flat metal dog tag with metal chain, inscribed "D. Fayed, type B pos."  
An Asprey gold cigar-clipper

**HENRI PAUL'S effects:**  
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A magnetic Ritz Hotel ID badge  
A Justice Ministry ID badge  
A Visa credit card  
An American Express card  
A saving account passbook  
A Diners' Club card  
A Casio digital calculator  
Two sets of keys

**TREVOR REES-JONES'S effects:**  
A Hodgkinson Telecom beeper  
A black leather address book  
A Visa card receipt in the name of Trevor Rees-Jones  
A blue Bic lighter  
A set of six keys on a Canal-Plus keyring

Contrary to widespread press reports, the diamond ring Dodi had bought for Diana was not found in the car: it was back in his apartment, where he almost certainly intended to slip it on the Princess's finger later. Also not found in the car, despite persistent rumours, was cocaine or any other drug. A mystery surrounds the £250,000 Bulgarian ruby necklace that Mohamed Al Fayed's entourage insists was worn by the Princess that night and "stolen" from her body.

French police say the jewellery was not found in the car and doubt that any such necklace could have been snatched from her at the scene, given the number of witnesses who were there from the first moments after the accident. The police version is supported by photographs of the Princess emerging from the Ritz to get into the Mercedes, which clearly show her to be bare-necked.



Why did the Princess tell journalists "the next thing I do will be a big surprise"?

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# 'I'm not going to rest until I know what happened'

Mohamed Al Fayed bounds suddenly into the boardroom at Harrods. The Egyptian tycoon is dapper in his white-collared shirt and plaid trousers. Even before introductions can be made, he thrusts Harrods teddy bears into the arms of his unsuspecting guests and says "Merry Christmas!"

The festive mood inside the vast department store, which is lavishly decorated in the theme of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*, cannot conceal the profound pain he feels as he sits down to discuss the

investigation is completed, he is disturbed by the conspiracy theories that have appeared, and will not accept that it was an ordinary accident until all the facts are in.

What he cannot get out of his mind is the horrible thought that his bitter battle with the Establishment somehow played a part in the tragedy.

**Y**ou can't believe what I am fighting here," he says with a wince that wrinkles his brow.

"They can't get over the fact that I own Harrods. It's an Egyptian, not a Briton, who built this store, this fantasy. How can a bloody Egyptian come from another planet and do this?"

This brings Al Fayed to the "sleaze" scandal, and he makes no apologies for his role in bringing down a Tory Government that had insulted him, failed to appreciate

what he gave to the country and denied him citizenship. "I brought down part of them," he explains, his lip suddenly trembling, tears filling his eyes.

"I won't stop until I bring down the rest of them. I won't stop until I reveal the true extent of the political conspiracy that I have been the victim of, how they set up a government inquiry to please my business rival Tiny Rowland, who lost out when he sold me the shares so that I could acquire Harrods."

"They did it to hurt me, even though two Trade Ministers said there was no need for such an inquiry, it did hurt me. But they will never get me down."

He gets up and walks across the room to get a box of tissues from a small table in the corner.

"I am a taxpayer in this country," he continues. "I have devoted 30 years of my life, employing people, bringing in business, paying hundreds of millions of pounds in taxes. This is my country. You don't want to end after you sacrifice for all this, to be humiliated in a report commissioned by a corrupt Tory Government. I am fighting a crusade for the masses, for the ordinary people."

It was precisely these influential forces, Al Fayed believes, who were appalled by the news that the Princess had fallen in love with his son, Dodi.

"It was a very serious matter," he says. "Maybe the future King is going to have a half-brother who is a 'nigger', Mohamed Al Fayed is going to be the step-grandfather of the future King. This is how they think, this Establishment. They are a completely different type of human being."

The meeting has been a difficult one for the Harrods chief. By the end, the tension in his body has become palpable, his quest for answers to his tragedy intense. But before excusing himself to attend another appointment, he makes a vow: "I am not going to rest until I know what happened. It is not only my son. It is the mother of the two boys."

## Death of a PRINCESS

'Our family, she never saw anything like it in her life. With us she enjoyed freedom, no formalities. She enjoyed our family and Dodi is part of it. Things worked out naturally'

The light-headedness in his manner fades as soon as Al Fayed begins to speak of the crash in the Alma tunnel. While he is keeping an open mind until the French

tragedy in Paris for the first time publicly. Although the 40-day Muslim period of mourning is over, he continues to grieve for Dodi and Diana, Princess of Wales: the tie adorning his Turnbull and Asser shirt is black.

It is clear that he feels as if he has lost not only a son, but two children, and at a moment when such happiness for them was in the offing. He notes that he has received condolence messages from the Queen, Prince Edward, Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Tony Blair. He was, Al Fayed says, as surprised as anybody when Dodi and the Princess fell in love. But he can see the attraction. "She had been excited to marry the future King when she was young," Al Fayed explains. "But she had no experience of life. She faced this maze of tradition and bureaucracy and found that this was not the life she was looking for. After her father passed on, she would sometimes come to me for advice. She wanted to live like an ordinary person. She came from the aristocracy, but she is an ordinary girl."

Al Fayed believes that the Princess's St Tropez holiday with him, his wife and his five children opened her eyes to the possibilities of a happy family life.

"Our family, she never saw anything like it in her life," he says, noting that she had had an unhappy childhood amid her parents' bitter divorce. "With us, she

enjoyed freedom, no formalities." With a laugh, he adds: "Dodi has the same sense of humour as me. For the first time, she meets somebody like me, only younger! She enjoyed our family, and Dodi is part of it. Things worked out naturally. If my son is happy, I am happy. It was his choice, his problem. I want to make him completely independent, not relying on me all the time."

The light-headedness in his manner fades as soon as Al Fayed begins to speak of the crash in the Alma tunnel. While he is keeping an open mind until the French

investigation is completed, he is disturbed by the conspiracy theories that have appeared, and will not accept that it was an ordinary accident until all the facts are in.

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Mohamed Al Fayed and the Princess: "She had no experience of life. After her father passed on, she would sometimes come to me for advice"

## Asthmatics move into class of their own

If Pige, the anti-hero in *Lord Of The Flies*, had been a fraction older — over 12 — and had had the advantage of the new anti-asthmatic inhaler, the Oxis Turbohaler, he might never have been murdered.

If he had been even younger, he would have benefited from the other new anti-asthma preparation, Singulair, introduced this week, which is suitable for everybody from six onwards.

Pige, lacking adequate treatment, suffered from recurrent asthma, he wheezed, coughed, grunted, and kept the others awake at night with his laboured breathing. By day his thick spectacles increased his vulnerability. As the mob became more vicious, he was the obvious victim.

Now that asthma is becoming more common, there is greater understanding of the disease, and of the extreme discomfort, even terror, that the inability to breathe causes.

Asthma has increased by more than 50 per cent in the Western world in the past 25 years. In some parts of Europe, the figures are particularly bad. In Wales the numbers have doubled, and now 3.4 million people in the UK suffer from it.

In New Zealand, the situation is even worse, one in three having asthma. In the developing world, however, asthma is still relatively rare, and it is not often seen, for instance, among the Australian Aborigines or the Inuits.

The reason for the increase is uncertain. Central heating is frequently blamed as it causes an increase in a number of house dust mites, which, together with pollen, dust, and fur from cats and other household pets, as well as moulds and fungi, can flourish in a warm, moist climate.

The extraordinary prevalence of asthma in Australia and New Zealand reflects the general liability of the population to suffer from allergies for which air pollution has been blamed.

In Britain the deathrate from asthma is falling. The message that the best treatment for asthma is to keep it at bay by the correct use of inhaled corticosteroids or other anti-inflammatory drugs, together with broncho dilators during an acute attack, is being reflected in better statistics.

Doctors are now more able to assess the severity of an attack. They have overcome their fear of prescribing sys-

temic steroids and now have well established rules as to when a patient needs admission to hospital.

Asthma is caused by the narrowing of the bronchial tubes leading to the lungs, so that the patient is starved of air. Much of this narrowing is the result of constriction caused by tightening of the muscles of the airways. Inflammation of the tubes not only causes muscle constriction, but also the swelling of airways which then produce more sticky mucus, which further impedes air flow. Inflammation is present even in cases of mild disease.

It is claimed that when Astra's new Oxis Turbohaler, which contains efomedrol, a selective Beta-2 agonist, which acts as a broncho dilator, is taken as well as inhaled steroids, it cuts the number of asthma attacks by one third. It should not be taken by itself, and is not indicated for immediate relief but for long-term treatment.

Singulair, like Oxis, is an add-on preparation. Singulair is used in conjunction with existing prophylactic anti-asthma products. It is taken in tablet form and results in fewer, milder attacks of asthma, better lung function and improved exercise tolerance.

It should never be used as an emergency treatment. Its role is to help to stop the patient having attacks. Its side-effects are mild, but the very occasional patient has complained of upset tummies, dizziness, headaches, nasal congestion and rashes — the type of symptoms that tend to occur whatever the treatment prescribed.

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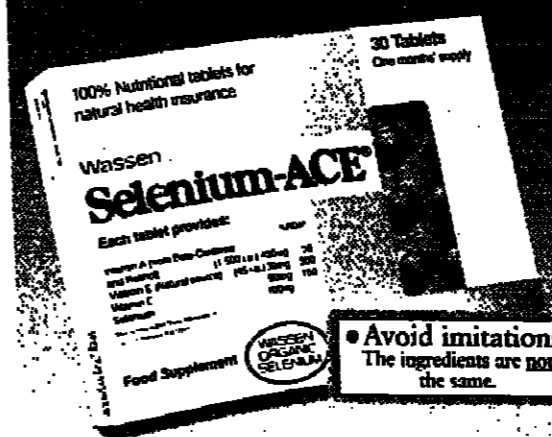
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**MEDICINE CHEST**  
DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

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# Diana: the missing minutes

## Death of a PRINCESS

The doctors battled to save her life, but would Diana, Princess of Wales, have lived if she had reached the hospital earlier?

The first doctor on the scene was Frédéric Mailliez, 36, a physician with the private medical service SOS Médecins. Mailliez and his companion Mark Butt, 42, a native of Baltimore, were driving home from a birthday party and entered the Alma tunnel via the eastbound lane within a minute of the accident. "I was pretty sure that the car had just crashed because the smoke was still in the tunnel and the horn was still going," Mailliez said. "People were just walking towards the car. I saw the severely damaged car and I saw four people inside. Two were apparently dead and two severely injured."

Mailliez went back to his car, a white Ford Fiesta bearing a prominent blue SOS Médecins logo, and placed a magnetic beacon light on its roof. On his cellphone, he called the firemen's emergency unit. "There is a severe car crash here at the Pont de l'Alma," he told the dispatcher. "There are two people severely injured. I need two ambulances." Mailliez also requested a specially equipped vehicle, a sort of mobile command centre, to take through metal and fire trapped accident victims. He then returned to the Mercedes. A volunteer fireman was attending Trevor Rees-Jones in the front seat, so Mailliez turned to the blonde woman (whose identity he did not learn until he saw it on CNN the next morning).

He found Diana, Princess of Wales, slumped on the floor with her left leg up on the rear seat and her right leg folded under her. She was leaning against the back of Rees-Jones's seat with her back towards the door and her chin tucked against her chest. She was in a position that made it difficult to breathe, says Mailliez, so he carefully raised her head and put an oxygen mask over her face. In an interview in *Impact* *Quotidien*, a daily journal for physicians, he described his actions in these professional terms: "I helped her to breathe with a mask and I attempted to liberate the upper respiratory passage by bending her head back slightly. I sought to unblock the trachea and prevent the tongue from blocking the oropharynx. She seemed to be a bit more agitated, but more reactive, once she was able to breathe better."

Mailliez said that the woman seemed to be in the best shape of anyone in the car, though it was not apparent to him at the time that she suffered from serious internal haemorrhaging. At the beginning, from the outside, she looked pretty fine. But the internal injury, as you know, was already starting. I thought this woman had a chance. Someone said the car's occupants spoke English, so Mailliez asked her a few questions and, as he put it, "tried to make her feel more comfortable".

The SAMU ambulance bearing the Princess left the tunnel at about 1.25am escorted by two policemen on motorcycles with sirens blaring. On the doctors' instructions, however, the ambulance proceeded slowly to avoid bumps and accelerations that they feared might harm a patient in such a fragile condition. Owing to the convoy's snail-like pace, her ambulance did not pass through the gates of Pitié-Salpêtrière until 2.05, some 40 minutes after leaving the tunnel and an hour and 40 minutes after the crash. At that time of night, the drive from the Alma tunnel to the hospital via the riverfront dual carriageway normally takes between five and ten minutes.

Police Chief Philippe Masson, who witnessed her arrival, was shocked by her pallor. "I no longer recognised the woman I had seen in the tunnel," he said. At that point, one doctor noted that "she suffered from very grave thoracic haemorrhaging, quickly

followed by cardiac arrest". The doctors discovered that her chest cavity was filled with blood from a tear in her left pulmonary vein, the vessel that carries oxygenated blood from the left lung into the atrium chamber of the heart. Backed-up blood had pooled in the lungs, making it impossible for the Princess to breathe without the support of the heart-lung machine that she had been hooked up to upon entering surgery. Blood loss had starved her internal organs of oxygen and damaged the heart muscle.

While one surgeon sutured the lesion, other doctors took turns squeezing the Princess's heart in their hands in an attempt to restore a heartbeat. Drugs and electric shocks were also administered. After nearly two hours of fruitless efforts, the doctors turned off the heart-lung machine and sewed up the cavity. The Princess was declared dead at 4.00 on Sunday morning.

According to a French official at the hospital, several members of the operating team told him that the Princess may have died before reaching the operating room. They noted that, after the first half-hour under the tunnel, she had stopped moving and slipped into a deep coma. "What's troubling," says this official, "is that it took more than an hour from the time of the accident to the time the ambulance left the tunnel, and then it rolled very slowly."

Had the patient not been the Princess of Wales, this official confides, doctors might have pulled the plug and pronounced her dead long before they did. Instead, "they did absolutely everything they could to save her". Thierry Meresse, the hospital spokesman, said, "They went far beyond the bounds of duty, far beyond anything that has been done before. It was a superhuman effort."

Superhuman? Far beyond anything that has ever been done before? Even allowing for the emotion of the moment,



The Princess's coffin arrives at RAF Northolt; the doctors who treated the Princess were said to have worked "far beyond the bounds of duty" in their efforts to save her

says one thoracic surgeon on the staff of a public hospital in Paris. "It's the vessel that feeds oxygenated blood back into the heart. It is a large vein, with a heavy blood flow, which can be ripped in the case of a major shock, or deceleration. This produces a pulling on the vein, which can cause it to snap and rip off."

The condition is rarely diagnosed, however. The reason, says this specialist, who insists on anonymity, is that people with such injuries usually die before they can be treated. But not always. "That depends," this surgeon continues, "on the extent of the haemorrhaging. If you have a big hole or a small hole in a vessel, the blood doesn't flow out at the same rate. Those who arrive [alive] are the ones who have incomplete ruptures of the vein. That can happen. The proof is that this patient arrived alive at the hospital, so there must not have been a complete rupture."

Another French physician, surgeons. "A ruptured pulmonary vein is a rare, rare injury," says Ochsner. "The much more common deceleration injury is to the aorta. Once that ruptures—pow! Death is instantaneous."

That is not necessarily the case with the pulmonary vein, says Ochsner. "Because the pulmonary vein is a low-pressure system, the bleeding is less rapid and can kind of clot and form a pseudo-closure. The pressure going in there is almost a negative pressure, because of the inspiration from the heart [ie, the left atrium is sucking the blood in from the left pulmonary vein]. So the lowest pressure ever is, is when the blood is flowing into the heart. In contrast, when it's going out of the heart [through the aorta], it's the highest pressure. So the reason [Diana] didn't bleed out right away is that the tear was probably clotting and because the pressure there is so modest."

Would a person in that state have any chance of survival? "Sure," says Ochsner. "Depending on the size of the rent, or tear. If it wasn't too big, they could put the patient on a heart-lung machine and just go in and do [the repair] electively. If you can get them in the hospital and on a heart-lung machine early enough you can save them. But time is of the essence."

Precisely. It took an hour and 40 minutes from the time of the accident to the time the Princess entered the operating room. What was going on during all that time? First, it took 15 minutes for the first fully equipped SAMU ambulance and its doctor to reach the scene. Second, it was a slow, delicate operation to get Diana out of the car. Third, she received extensive treatment on site, lasting between 30 and 45 minutes, before the ambulance moved. Once inside the large, box-like SAMU ambulance, the Princess was put in an IV drip (essentially liquids and dextrose), intubated, attached to an artificial respirator and given external cardiac stimulation. It is very different in America, where accident victims are scooped up and rushed to hospital.

The philosophy in France is to try to stabilise the patient as much as you can, because travelling with this kind of status can be very dangerous for a patient," said Mailliez, an experienced emergency doctor. "So we try to restore a little bit of blood pressure and some other things before we start to drive." Similarly, says Mailliez, it is not uncommon for emergency doctors to tell ambulance drivers to go slowly. A spokesman for the French hospital system confirms that the ambulance "slowed down and rolled gently. It's common sense: any person in a SAMU vehicle is already receiving medical treatment, so they don't drive at speed."

Ochsner takes issue with such reasoning. "You couldn't try to repair that injury on the scene, you'd have to be in the hospital," he says. The external chest massage would probably be "the worst thing that could happen", he argues. As for the go-slow driving technique to avoid shocks and bumps, Ochsner bristles. "Shocks and bumps? You know, if you're trying to save a life, you have to get them to the operating room quickly."

So could the Princess have been saved if she had reached the hospital earlier? "I can't second-guess anybody," Ochsner says. "What I'm saying is if it was a small pressure, because of the inspiration from the heart [ie, the left atrium is sucking the blood in from the left pulmonary vein]. So the lowest pressure ever is, is when the blood is flowing into the heart. In contrast, when it's going out of the heart [through the aorta], it's the highest pressure. So the reason [Diana] didn't bleed out right away is that the tear was probably clotting and because the pressure there is so modest."

While not accusing any individual medical worker of professional errors in treating the Princess — indeed, they clearly followed standard French procedures — Wasserman argues that the fault lies with the whole French approach to emergency medicine. "Stabilising patients in the field is a mistake we made for decades in the US before we abandoned in favour of the scoop-and-run method about ten years ago," he says.

It seems that fate was not kind to the Princess of Wales during her last visit to Paris: it put her in the path of the paparazzi, in the hands of a drunken driver, and in the care of an emergency medical system that — despite its overall high quality and the best efforts of highly skilled doctors — may have had a disastrous method of dealing with her kind of injury.

Thomas Sanction and Scott MacLeod 1998  
Death of a Princess: An Investigation by Thomas Sanction and Scott MacLeod is published today by Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £18.99. Readers can buy the book by calling the Times Bookshop on 0900 134459

**'What I'm saying is this, if they'd have gotten her there in an hour, they might have saved her'**

the language sounds a bit excessive. As if to dispel any suspicion that had things been done differently, the Princess might still be alive today. It's a legitimate question.

No autopsy was undertaken in France; and the results of the British autopsy remain a secret. Thus it is impossible to know the precise details of her injuries, the size of the rupture, the extent of other possible internal lesions that could also have contributed to the haemorrhaging. But since the published and unpublished reports have focused on the torn pulmonary vein as the central cause of death, it is worth examining the precise nature of this kind of injury and the chances of survival.

"The pulmonary vein is a large vessel that empties into the left atrium of the heart,"

the head of emergency services at a large Paris hospital, says the fact that the Princess did not die immediately of a massive haemorrhage indicates that the tear in the pulmonary vein was "either a small one" or that it was partially closed. Thus it might have been possible to save her "with some luck and intelligence" — if that was her only internal lesion.

These physicians are careful to point out that they do not have enough precise information about the nature and extent of Diana's injuries to come to any definitive conclusions about her case. Freer to analyse and speculate is Dr John Ochsner, 70, Chairman Emeritus of Surgery at Ochsner Clinic in New Orleans, and one of America's pre-eminent cardiovascular



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### HONEST BANKER

Eddie George should be appointed for a second term

In the next few weeks Tony Blair and Gordon Brown have to make a seemingly straightforward decision, but one whose unexpected consequences could haunt them at the next general election and beyond. Mr Brown must announce the appointment of the next Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, the present incumbent, comes to the end of his term in June.

The decision would seem to be straightforward. Mr George has done a generally good job, contributing as much as anybody to the healthy condition of the British economy today. Within the framework set by the new Government, Mr George has performed competently, balancing his primary responsibility to control inflation against the pressures from City commentators to become what he himself has derided as an "inflation nut". He is known to be eager to carry on. He is not yet 60. He would, therefore, seem the natural candidate for another five-year term.

What then is delaying a decision? There seem to be three possible arguments, one perfectly reasonable, the others reprehensible. The reasonable argument is that the Treasury wanted to complete the preparation of the new Bank of England Act and to settle delicate technical negotiations about the Bank's future financing, before announcing a whole new administrative structure, with continuity underlined by Mr George's reappointment as Governor.

The reprehensible arguments against Mr George relate to his political independence. Some enthusiasts for the single currency think that Mr George cannot be trusted to give his wholehearted backing to any decision by the Government to join the European monetary union. Last week the *Financial Times*, which led the abortive campaign to bounce Tony Blair into an EMU commitment, published an attack on Mr George's European credentials. The Governor, it said, was "outspokenly sceptical" about Britain's early membership of the euro club. If the Government decided to persuade the British people to back the euro, Mr George would be unsuited to lead "a pro-

EMU campaign". If Britain did join, he might not prove "an enthusiastic ambassador" for the European central bank.

There also appear to be senior elements in the Government who fear that the Bank could damage Labour's re-election chances by allowing the economic cycle to move out of phase with the election cycle. They would prefer a more reliable political appointee at the Bank instead of Mr George.

When it comes to political independence, Mr George stands guilty as charged. Only last week he appeared before the Commons Treasury committee to express "serious doubts" about whether France, Italy and Spain were ready for EMU. He also noted that high levels of unemployment throughout Europe suggested that the single currency might do more harm than good. His views on these matters would command support in Europe. A set of 155 economics professors in Germany have launched a last-ditch campaign on the basis that Germany is not ready for the single currency either.

At the same time as expressing his honest intellectual doubts, Mr George has behaved with absolute correctness in following the Government's official line on EMU. He has repeatedly stated that he has no objections in principle to joining the single currency and peppers his speeches with references to Britain as a "pre-in".

The questions that the Prime Minister and Chancellor must now answer are simple. Do they want the Bank run by a man with a good professional reputation, a realistic view about EMU and a strong record of putting statutory duties above short-term political calculations? Were they serious about wanting a non-political monetary policy designed to keep inflation permanently under control or was the decision to give independence to the Bank of England just a short-term political wheeze? Do they want a yes-man who will turn the Bank into an arm of the Government's public relations and re-election machine? When the Government announces its decision, the financial markets and the voters will be entitled to draw some clear conclusions.

### OPAQUE SIGNALS

Few of Saddam's neighbours have any interest in his survival

Despite intensive diplomacy by Britain and America, Arab opposition to any American-led airstrike on Iraq appears to be mounting. King Hussein said after meeting Tony Blair yesterday that Jordan could not support an attack that would hurt ordinary Iraqis. Tunisia and Egypt condemned any use of force and Iraq's Foreign Minister, embarking on his own diplomatic offensive, has garnered valuable backing from the Arab League. Iraq's Gulf neighbours are fearful of siding with America, but equally fearful of Saddam. Saudi Arabia has been the most delicate, insisting that it would hold Saddam alone responsible for any hostilities but failing to commit any logistical support to the Americans. Only Kuwait has offered bases.

Yet Western statesmen are not discouraged. They have found in private discussion more tacit backing for the tough Anglo-American line than leaders have declared in public. The Arabs know as well as any Western strategist that only credible preparations for a strike will persuade Saddam to back down. They know that he will thwart and taunt the West with half-promises and offers wrapped in propaganda. And they know that the more ships, planes and troops are sent to the Gulf, the more diplomacy is likely to succeed.

The Americans, for their part, know the limitations on Arab leaders. There is little public support for a new Gulf coalition when Iraqi troops are not occupying another Arab country. Concern for the suffering of the Iraqi people is widespread, and unaffected by Western insistence that Saddam himself has diverted oil-for-food earnings to his own military programmes. The perceived chasm between Western determination to enforce

United Nations resolutions on Iraq and Western failure to take an equally tough line with Israel over peace process commitments has so warped public opinion that Palestinian demonstrators are again calling on Saddam to hit Tel Aviv with Scud missiles.

Washington has shown much diplomatic agility in interpreting these opaque signals. Neither William Cohen nor Madeleine Albright has sought from Saudi Arabia, their key ally, anything the Saudis would be reluctant to endorse in public — support for military action, bases or overlying rights. A public refusal makes it harder to support America should hostilities begin, whereas an unspoken understanding means that in the heat of battle such support can be given without fuss or domestic repercussions. Similarly the Egyptians have not demanded the Egyptians a commitment that finds little echo among a largely indifferent public. Instead, Washington has concentrated on assembling a growing Western coalition, shaming the wavering Germans at the annual defence colloquium and eliciting from Helmut Kohl the kind of decisive support that matters in Europe.

Meanwhile, the Americans cannot be unhappy with the incursion of 7,000 Turkish troops into northern Iraq. The Turks have their reasons for wanting to secure their border, determined to stop a new exodus of Kurdish refugees and strike at the bases for PKK Kurdish terrorists. The action increases pressure on Saddam in the north; the Gulf build-up will make it harder for him to keep control in the south. The West, Russia and even the Arab League are stepping up the pressure. And few of Saddam's neighbours have any interest in his survival.

### NEW BRITAIN, OLD MEN

Women still have to do two jobs at once

A woman's lot is hardly a happy one, according to a survey out yesterday, which paints a picture of a group that feels overworked, underpaid and exhausted. Nearly half are frequently stressed. Since 52 per cent of those who work full-time also do most of the chores at home, it is not surprising that 81 per cent agree that "women are expected to perform too many roles nowadays".

The survey, for *Top Santé* magazine, is hardly scientific. Although it was sent to 25,000 women, only 5,000 replied. The respondents may have been those who felt most under stress and welcomed a poll that seemed to be addressing their problems. Or they might have been those who were least overstressed and had the time in the day to fill out a lengthy questionnaire. Either way, the sample was self-selecting and would be dismissed by any reputable pollster.

But like many such surveys, it still makes gripping reading. What is said is how low an opinion these women seem to have about themselves. A full 50 per cent describe themselves as overweight, even though just 17 per cent of women are considered by doctors to be obese. Two thirds of respondents are unhappy with their shape, 77 per cent have been on a diet, and just 6 per cent believe that men find them very attractive. An extraordinary 88 per cent sometimes feel

depressed about their looks. Yet these are, on the whole, successful and fulfilled women. Forty per cent are at management or director level, and 78 per cent enjoy their work. Of those who have a job and a preschool child, two thirds would continue working either part-time or full-time even in an ideal world. The trouble is that work does not stop when they reach home.

Even when men help with the household chores, it is generally the woman who has to take responsibility for the running of the home. If the fridge is empty, it is her fault. If the children have not done their homework or their PE kit is still in the dirty laundry, it is their mother who will be blamed. The chores themselves may be tiring, but it is the planning that takes the worst toll. No wonder that 90 per cent of these women feel exhausted, 47 per cent "frequently".

There is only one answer: to move to East Anglia. Women who live there are the most likely to enjoy their job, to consider themselves the right weight, to feel very attractive to men, to have a "fantastic" sex life and to have a partner who is a "wonderful lover". But most important for those who are struggling to combine two jobs — one at work, the other at home — these women are the most likely to have tracked down that elusive beast, the "new" man.

### Iraq: slim hopes of peaceful solution

From Field Marshal Sir John Stanier

Sir, It is hard not to be convinced by Simon Jenkins's penetrating analysis of the prospect of bombing Iraq (article, February 7). Assuming, for a moment, that the bombers achieve everything for which they hope and that they succeed in destroying all the stockpiles of which they know, without spreading any unpleasant biological agents into the atmosphere, what will happen then? Will Saddam Hussein say: "I'm sorry, you must now come into Iraq and see if I have any further capabilities"? Hardly.

The conduct of a successful air war is a politician's dream: it avoids the mud and blood of a ground campaign and enables wars to be fought without getting your hands dirty. Unfortunately air wars are never successful in isolation. If you wish to expel an invading dictator from, say, Kuwait or the Falklands, you have to go there and drive him out. The same applies to stopping him from doing something you don't like. As Simon Jenkins points out, a land invasion is out of the question: in the Gulf War, some 600,000 troops were needed to do the job.

Perhaps if we attempted to improve the lot of Saddam Hussein's people by offering a reduction in sanctions in exchange for evidence of his abandonment of weapons of mass destruction, a more realistic result might be achieved. It would certainly be a lot cheaper.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN STANIER,  
as from:  
The Cavalry and Guards Club,  
127 Piccadilly, W1V 0PX,  
February 7.

From Captain Richard Sharpe, RN,  
Editor of Jane's Fighting Ships

Sir, There seems to be some bewilderment over why most of the naval forces gathering in the Gulf are US and British, and why many of the UN inspectors in Iraq are drawn from the same two nations.

Watching Israel preparing its defence against missiles armed with chemical and biological warheads, the answer is surely clear. Saddam Hussein not only has these weapons, but US Intelligence has established that he intends to use them. The source of this information will have been shared with the British and the Israelis, but certainly not with Russia, and probably not with France. These last two nations can also see long-term political and commercial advantages in not becoming too involved at this stage.

The Kenners' arguments (letter, February 9) against pre-emptive strikes on Iraqi weapons installations are persuasive. But the even more unattractive alternative is to wait for Saddam Hussein to make the first move, as in the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. This time it might mean the massacre of the Kurds, or of the people of Tel Aviv, by germ warfare.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD SHARPE,  
Editor,  
Jane's Fighting Ships,  
Fountry House, Kingsley,  
Bordon, Hampshire GU33 9LY,  
February 9.

From Mr Padraig A. McHugh

Sir, I am saddened both by the fact that Matthew Parris (article, February 9) considers the trumpet call on Iraq uncertain and that he feels himself unstruck by it, uncertain or otherwise.

Might I beg that he, for one moment, gives ear to the words attributed to Edmund Burke: "It is necessary only for the good man to do nothing for evil to triumph."

Yours faithfully,  
P. A. MCHUGH,  
Cartree Melys,  
6 Pen Dalar,  
Llanfairfechan, Conwy LL33 0RA,  
February 6.

From Professor Emeritus  
Thomas Stapleton

Sir, On June 9, 1994, you published a letter from me comparing North Korea to a tiger in a corner who may take desperate action even though it may lead him into fatal danger. He can be immediately calmed by throwing him a chunk of fresh raw meat.

This morning I heard on the BBC World Service that the United States is sending 200,000 tonnes of food aid to North Korea so that it may agree to discussions with South Korea.

Is not the situation with Saddam Hussein somewhat similar? Should not now the complete lifting of sanctions against Iraq be offered on condition that Saddam Hussein allows free and unrestricted access to his suspected weapon sites?

Yours sincerely,  
THOMAS STAPLETON,  
The Foundry Cottage,  
Lane End, High Wycombe,  
Buckinghamshire HP14 3JS,  
February 6.

From Mrs Teresa Brierley

Sir, An impossible dream, but I would dearly love to see a squadron of British aircraft flying over Iraq in order to drop medical supplies and food for starving children.

Yours faithfully,  
TERESA BRIERLEY,  
4 Hanwell Court, Hanwell,  
Nr Banbury, Oxfordshire OX17 1HF,  
February 9.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Re-evaluating European federalism

From Mr D. J. Gleeson

Sir, When recommending that Conservatives espouse the cause of European federalism, Tessa Keawick ("Shift the Tories cannot shirk", February 3) could have added that for a Eurosceptic who genuinely does not wish to withdraw from the European Union, federalism is the most obvious and logical option.

The main complaints of many Eurosceptics are that the Union is intent upon continuously expanding its jurisdiction at the expense of the nation state; and that its institutions are not properly democratically accountable.

A truly democratic federal constitution would remove both grievances. It would ensure both that there were clearly defined and unalterable limits to the jurisdiction of the Commission and the Council of Ministers and that both bodies were effectively controlled by a European Parliament possessed of sufficient powers to impose its will within those policy areas for which it was agreed the Union should be responsible.

Most Conservative Eurosceptics constantly claim that they do not wish to withdraw from the Union. A wholehearted commitment to federalism would demonstrate their sincerity.

Yours faithfully,  
DERMOT GLEESON,  
Hook Farm, White Hart Lane,  
Wood Street, Guildford GU3 3EA,  
February 3.

From Sir Anthony Meyer

Sir, Tessa Keawick and Professor John Barnes, from whose paper we welcome the prospect of a federal Britain she quotes, are right: the only answer to the West Lothian question is to turn the Westminster Parliament into a (much smaller) federal parliament for the UK, and to set up an English parliament — or possibly a number of regional English parliaments — to

### Cost of vaccinations

From Mr Peter D. Terry

Sir, Dr R. H. Behrens's letter (February 2) on the cost to the taxpayer of travel vaccinations for tourists supplies further evidence that the NHS is now providing services which its founding fathers never intended.

Why, for instance, should taxpayers' money be spent on such issues as ministering to and curing the drunken louts who regularly fill hospital casualty departments? Why should free fertility treatment be offered by some hospital authorities when the last thing the country needs is a larger population?

Why should the NHS spend inordinate amounts of money on trying to cure people of self-inflicted problems, such as drug and alcohol-dependent ailments? Why should I, as a rugby player, expect it to nurse me back to health after a game injury?

Until the Secretary of State for Health introduces measures which will make all the population responsible for their own actions, the NHS is going to demand more and more money from the taxpayer.

Yours faithfully,  
P. D. TERRY,  
High Cross,  
Chestnut Hill, Cumbria CA12 4LR,  
February 3.

### "Titanic" calumny

From Miss Jenni Atkinson

Sir, In the new film *Titanic* (review, Arts, January 22), the ship's First Officer, William Murdoch, is portrayed as a coward who shoots a panicking passenger and then, overcome by shame, shoots himself. Yet survivors' testimony at the two inquiries quite clearly show that Murdoch's behaviour was correct and conscientious. His last hours were spent supervising the lowering of lifeboats, even giving away his own lifejacket to a passenger.

The only shots reported were fired into the air, firstly by Fifth Officer Lowe to discourage a rush for Boat 14, then later by Murdoch to protect collapsible boat B. There is no evidence of suicide, and Murdoch was seen working to launch the remaining collapsible boat when the water engulfed him.

### Pennies in heaven?

From Mr Jon Prentice

Sir, Mrs Peter Low's concern (letter, February 2) that computers cannot cope with the word "deceased" is justified. When, some years ago, I informed the Prudential of my mother's death, its response was to write to "Mrs J. M. Prentice Deceased" and offer her life assurance.

Further evidence came later from the car dealer with whom I had a fuel and servicing account. When phone calls, letters and visits failed to get my monthly statements sent to us at the then correct no 16 instead of the increasingly wrathful occupant of no 47, I was told their computer would only accept the instruction if it was first informed of my decease.

I rang the accounts department to advise them of my death, and had no more trouble.

Yours in resurrection faithfulness,  
JON PRENTICE,  
42a Arlington Road,  
Eastbourne, East Sussex BN20 1DL,  
February 3.

deal with the matters which the Scottish parliament will decide for Scotland.

Can we now bury the ludicrous idea that federalism means centralisation, or that it is incompatible with Conservative principles? Is it time to recognise that a federal constitution for Europe is the surest way to ensure that only those decisions which have to be taken at European level are taken in Brussels — and that only those decisions which need to be taken at national level are taken at Westminster?

I am, etc.  
ANTHONY MEYER,  
c/o European Movement,  
Dean Bradley House,  
52 Horseferry Road, SW1P 2AF,  
February 3.

From Dr Martin Holmes

Sir, Whatever the merits of a federal Britain, retaining UK influence in Europe would not be among them. Such a move would accelerate the EU's creation of a Europe of the regions as the alternative to a Europe of nation states, which Conservatives espouse.

It is for this reason the Basques, Catalans, northern Italians and others are so keen on a process which diminishes national sovereignty and promotes European federalism. Closer to home, the SNP has changed its advocacy of outright independence to "independence in Europe" as a way of extricating Scotland from the UK.

Conservatives may need to evaluate the Blair Government's constitutional changes on a case by case basis, as Tessa Keawick argues; but embracing federalism in any form is simply playing with fire.

I remain, Sir, yours etc,  
MARTIN HOLMES  
(Co-Chairman, The Bruges Group),  
44 Park Town, Oxford OX2 6SJ,  
February 3.

From Dr Nigel Higson

Sir, Dr Behrens's proposal that travel vaccination should be removed from the NHS budget takes no account of the adverse effects that such a move could have on public health.

A recent poll demonstrated that 44 per cent of people travelling to medium or high-risk countries failed to seek medical advice before travelling. Other surveys show that half of those leaving the UK for holidays or business travel abroad would not seek medical advice or treatment if they were charged to do so, and that the majority would not complete their vaccination course. This has most serious implications for the development of bacterial resistance and for the hypersensitivity reactions which might occur with repeated partial vaccinations.

The privatisation of travel vaccines will result in unnecessary competition to sell them without the current independent commitment by GPs to counsel travellers and ensure long-term and appropriate immunity.

Yours etc,  
NIGEL HIGSON  
(Co-Chairman,  
Primary Care Virology Group),  
Goodwood Court Surgery,  
52-54 Cromwell Road,  
Hove, East Sussex BN3 3DX,  
February 3.

The thousands of people who see this film will believe a vile calumny on a real and honourable man. This is surely not right. Members of his family are deeply distressed by it, including Mr Murdoch's nephew, Scott Murdoch, who appealed to the film's director a year ago not to misrepresent his uncle.

At the very least, Murdoch is owed an apology; preferably one projected prior to evening screening. An alternative would be a donation from the film's considerable profits to the Murdoch Memorial Prize, a bursary at Dalbeattie High School in his native town, which perpetuates the name this film so cruelly blackens.

Yours faithfully,  
JENNI ATKINSON,  
34 Burlington Avenue,  
Kew Gardens,  
Surrey TW9 4DQ,  
January 30.

From Mr Andrew Hardy

Sir, Nothing is certain but death and taxes. Mrs Low's letter reminds me how far the Inland Revenue's hand stretches, not only in life but also in death.

I recently informed a widow (as excruciating) that the tax unpaid by her late husband in 1996-97 would be collected through his 1998-99 code number.

Even God has to operate PAYE.

Yours faithfully,  
A. HARDY  
(Taxation consultant),  
52 Wentworth Drive,  
Bishops Cleeve,  
Hertfordshire CM23 2PD,  
tax.help@dial.pipex.com  
February 2.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

### Hidden nature of Powell's first love

From Canon Eric James

Sir, I had expected your headline today "Unrequited love drew poetry from Powell" to refer, not to Barbara Kennedy, but to his earlier homosexual love in Cambridge.

On April 22, 1988, I spent a morning with Enoch Powell discussing the Cambridge historian, preacher and eccentric, the Reverend F. A. Simpson. He had given Powell — in hospital at the time — £100 to get his *First Poems* published in 1937. Our conversation turned, not surprisingly, to A. E. Housman's influence on Powell at Trinity College, which, he made clear, was related not only to Housman's poetry and classical scholarship but to Housman's understanding of the homosexual condition.

Powell gave me that day a signed copy of *First Poems*, drawing my attention to certain of those "fifty short lyrics" in which he had tried to put into words what a homosexual friendship had meant to him. For example: "Tis true I loved you from the first: Yet had I turned away, I should have soon forgot my thirst And happier been to-day."

For now your face is graven deep Upon my inward sight, And when I wake and when I sleep, I see you day and night. And since our parting is decreed By laws we cannot break, The severed issues long will bleed And long the wound will ache.

I promised Enoch Powell I would not disclose what he had said to me about the homosexual basis of certain of his poems until after his death. Then it would be a matter of literary history.

The poem I quote is now included in *Collected Poems: Enoch Powell* (Bellevue Publishing, 1990).

Yours sincerely,  
ERIC JAMES,  
11 Denny Crescent,  
Kennington, SE11 4UY,  
February 9.

### Heath's silence

From Sir Julian Critchley

Sir, Sir Edward Heath's refusal to pay public tribute to Mr Enoch Powell on his death is in vivid contrast to the eulogies offered to Powell by Lady Thatcher (reports, February 9). Yet Sir Edward has every reason to resent Powell's call in February 1974 to the electorate to vote Labour, while Lady Thatcher did not suffer at Powell's hands. But it was in Lady Thatcher's power to send Powell to the Lords. I know that Powell held out for an hereditary peerage, but that did not prevent Lady Thatcher from giving Harold Macmillan and William Whitelaw hereditary peerages. Sir Edward has, by his silence, at least avoided humbug.

Yours etc,  
JULIAN CRITCHLEY  
(Conservative MP, 1959-64, 1970-97),  
19 Broad Street,  
Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1NG,  
February 9.

### Traffic jams

From Mr Ron Sands

Sir, The Government is to spend £3 million on a survey to discover why motorists are prepared to suffer long delays in stationary traffic jams rather than use public transport alternatives (report, news in brief, February 2).

The answer is contained in a Countryside Commission report, *Transport for Countryside Recreation*, published in 1974. Under the sub-heading "Territory" is the following sentence: "The car provides a personal, private and secure environment; it has connotations of possession, status, and pride."

Yours faithfully,  
RON SANDS,  
31 Marine Court,  
Morecambe, Lancashire LA3 1DN.

From Mr C. M. Baldwin

Sir, Mr Richard Outaway, MP (letter, February 4), describes a narrow, lightweight, Victorian bridge (ie. Hammersmith) as "a strategic artery of London's road system". If true this would be a sad reflection on our metropolitan; if the bridge were any smaller a museum might take it.

Let's keep it closed to private vehicles of three wheels or more.

Yours faithfully,  
C. M. BALDWIN,  
44 Elm Grove Road,  
Barnes, SW13 0BT,  
February 2.

### Numbers and tags

From Mr Jake Loddington

Sir, Mr Ben Garratt (letter, February 6) comments on the range of identity numbers with which he has to deal. My difficulty lies in understanding just one of them.

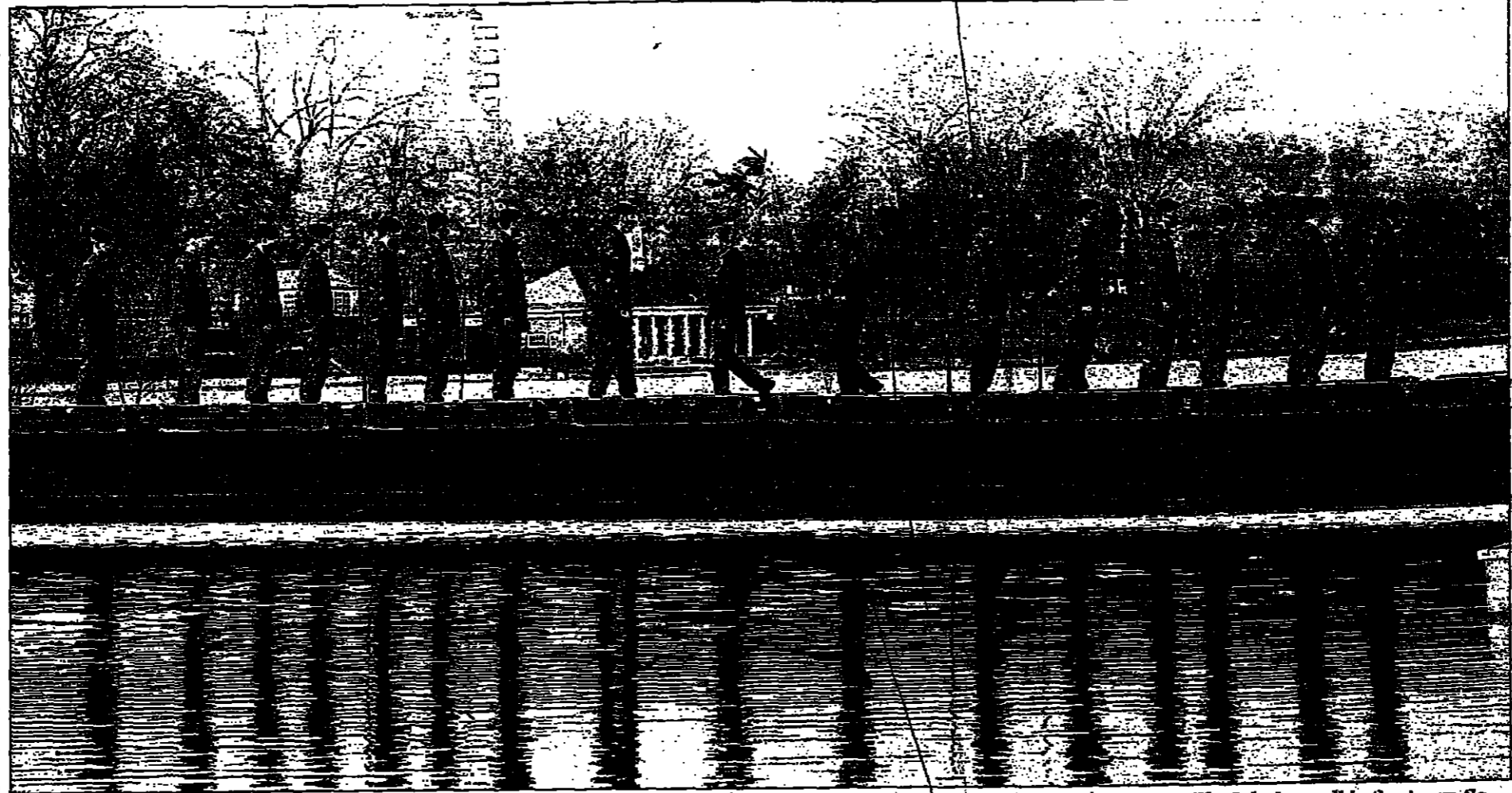
The student registration number supplied to me by a local university has 13 digits. I estimate that this would cater for the entire population of the world, a thousand times over.

What have they in mind for expanding their catchment area, I wonder?

Yours sincerely,  
JAKE LODDINGTON,  
22 Derby Road, Poulton-le-Fylde,  
Lancashire FY6 7AF.  
jake@jakelod.demon.co.uk  
February 6.

COURT CIRCULAR

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 9: The Prince of Wales, Vice Patron, this morning opened a Development Information Centre at the British Council offices, Kathmandu, Nepal.



Problem: how to transport 1,000 shrubs across 26 metres of water to the Serpentine island in Hyde Park to rejuvenate its falling plant life. Solution: call in the Army. So yesterday 14 sappers from the Royal School of Military Engineering in Surrey bridged the gap in a record 39 minutes 30 seconds...

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will hold an Investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00. The Duke of Kent will attend a luncheon given by the Honourable Frith Society at the Mansion House at 12.05.

Most Honourable Order of the Bath

A service for The Most Honourable Order of the Bath will be held in Westminster Abbey on Wednesday, May 13, 1998, at 11.15am in the presence of The Queen.

Birthdays today

Mr Larry Adler, mouth organist, 84; Mr Michael Apsel, film director, 57; Field Marshal Sir Nigel Bagnall, 71; Sir Michael Bishop, chairman, British Midland Airways, 50; Miss Olwyn Bowyer, painter, 62; Dr Alexander Compton, physician, poet and novelist, 78; Mr John Hayes, former secretary-general, Law Society, 53; Professor J. Heslop-Harrison, FRS, biologist, the Rev Donald Hilton, former Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, 66; Mr Norman Kark, former Editor, Courier, 100.

Meeting

Mr Peter Middleton, former chief executive, Lloyd's, 58; Lord Naylor, 89; Mr Greg Norman, golfer, 43; Lord Orr-Ewing, 86; Mr Nicholas Owen, broadcaster, 51; Group Captain Sir Gordon Pirie, 80; Miss Leontyne Price, soprano, 71; Sir Idwal Pugh, former Ombudsman, 80; Miss Gail Rebeck, chief executive, Galleries 46; Lord Justice Ross, 61; Mr Mark Spitz, swimmer, 48; Mr Robert Wagner, actor, 68.

Dinners

The Royal Academy of Engineering, CBE, FEng, FRS, President of The Royal Academy of Engineering, presided at a Lecture and Dinner held last night at 6 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1. Dr Peter Williams, CBE, FEng, Chairman of the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council, was the guest speaker and spoke on 'Engineering in Big Science'.

Cardiff Business Club

The President of Cardiff Business Club, Sir Idwal Pugh, the High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, Mr J.W. Phillips and the Deputy Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Councillor Gill Bird, were present at a dinner held by the Club at the Park Hotel, Cardiff last night. The guest speaker was the Right Hon Alan Clark, MP for Kensington and Chelsea. Mr Alan Rosser, IMC Consulting Group, presided.

Oxfordshire Lieutenancy

The following have been appointed Deputy Lieutenants for Oxfordshire: District Judge Alan Campbell, Mrs Maura Hayes, Mr Ian Lings, Mr Malcolm Cochrane, Lady Martha Ponsbury, Brigadier Nigel Mogg, Canon Tony Williamson and Dr Paul Williams.

Royal Air Force College Cranwell

Air Marshal J.R. Day, Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Commitments), was the Reviewing Officer at the Graduation of 91 officers of No 169 Initial Officer Training Course from Royal Air Force College Cranwell on Thursday February 5.

Church news

The Rev Douglas Robert Holt, Vicar of St Mary, Ealing (diocese of London), has been appointed to the Residential Canonry at Bristol Cathedral vacant by the elevation of Alastair Llewellyn John Redfern to the See of Grantham.

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: Benjamin Smith Burton, naturalist, Leicester, Philadelphia, 1766; Charles Lamb, essayist, London, 1775; Samuel Pilsbry, inventor of the Pilsbry line for ships, Bristol, 1824; William Pember Reeves, statesman, Lyttelton, New Zealand, 1837; Boris Pasternak, poet and novelist, Moscow, 1899; Will Tilden, tennis champion, Philadelphia, 1893; Harold Macmillan, 1st Earl of Stockton, Prime Minister 1957-63, London, 1894; Berthold Brecht, dramatist and theatre director, Augsburg, Germany, 1898; Joyce Grenfell, actress and broadcaster, London, 1910.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr I.P.D. Church and Sil Narsisak, Sec. Zainal Abidin. The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Church, of Goring-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, and Sil Narsisak, youngest daughter of H.H. Kamnishi and the late H.J. Zainal Abidin, of Brunei.

Marriages

Mr M.L. Long and Miss F.R.S.M. Williams. The engagement is announced between Michael, youngest son of Mr Martin Long, of West Didsbury, Manchester, and the late Mrs Long and Frances, daughter of Mrs Rosemary Williams, of Emsworth, Hampshire, and late Rev John St.M. Williams, of London.

BMDs: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS

BLAKE - On January 30th at the Portland Hospital, to Carol and David, a beautiful daughter, Isabel Grace.

DEATHS

BROOK - Caroline (née Osborne) of 10, St. Andrew's, died peacefully at home on February 5th aged 90 years.

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Various small notices and advertisements at the bottom of the page.

OBITUARIES

CARL WILSON

Carl Wilson, singer with the Beach Boys, died in Los Angeles of cancer on February 6 aged 51. He was born on December 21, 1946.



The Beach Boys with two female fans in London in 1966. Carl Wilson is second right

The youngest of three singing brothers, Carl Wilson, like his siblings Brian and Dennis, will forever be remembered as a golden youth in a sandy-striped shirt with a surfboard under his arm. The idyllic image, dating back more than 30 years to the sleeves of the early Beach Boys records, sometimes frustrated him, yet it is testimony not only to the extraordinary potency of the group's music but also the mythic power of the Californian dream of sun and surf which they came to represent.

Despite an attempt to launch a solo career in the 1980s, Wilson's life remained inextricably linked to the band he and his brothers had formed in 1961. Although brother Dennis drowned in 1983 and Brian became increasingly reclusive, Carl continued to perform with the group and completed the Beach Boys' 36th annual tour of America only last summer. Brian Wilson was the song-writing genius behind the Beach Boys but Carl possessed the strongest voice, singing lead on many of their greatest songs such as God Only Knows and Good Vibrations. His death leaves Brian, the eldest and on the surface the most fragile of the brothers, as the solo survivor.

Raised in Hawthorne, a suburb of Los Angeles about five miles from the Pacific Ocean, the three Wilson brothers were inspired by the close-harmony vocals of groups such as the Four Freshmen. Inviting their cousin Mike Love and a high school friend, Jardine, to form a singing quartet, they appeared initially as Carl and the Passions, playing rented instruments and with Carl on guitar.

Although Dennis was the only genuine surfer, they were

fascinated by the mystique of the surfing sub-culture that had developed on the beaches around Malibu. They wrote a song called Surfer's Soul, made their first appearance as the Beach Boys at Long Beach on New Year's Eve 1961 and never looked back.

Surfer's Soul was only a minor hit but it was followed by Surfer's Safari and the anthem Surfer's USA, which reached number two in the American charts in July 1963 and showed off the rich, layered harmonies that were to become the Beach Boys' trademark. Other songs such as Little Deuce Coupe and Fun Fun Fun developed a second celebratory theme of driving the California high-tops in hot rods and open-top cars.

What all the songs had in common was a bouncy hedonism which reflected a world of eternal youth, endless sun-

shine and leisured affluence in which there was always a plentiful supply of beautiful girls, invariably blonde, tanned and fun-loving. One early hit promised "two girls for every boy" and in a land where the Depression and the Second World War were still living memories, the cares of adulthood were never allowed to intrude.

To British youth such escapism seemed incredibly exotic and at the height of the invasion of the American charts by groups such as the Beatles and the Rolling Stones, the Beach Boys redressed the balance by scoring huge British hits with songs such as I Get Around and California Girls.

Inevitably the band's members began to outgrow the teen dreams and fatuous fantasies of their early songs. Influenced by the lavish production tech-

niques of Phil Spector and the more experimental approach of the Beatles' Rubber Soul, in May 1966 the Beach Boys released what many regarded as their finest achievement, the Pet Sounds album, which used elaborate studio techniques to produce an almost symphonic approach. It was followed by Good Vibrations, which still regularly tops polls as the greatest single of all time.

By the late 1960s Vietnam and progressive rock had made the Beach Boys seem like an anachronism. Band members became heavily involved in drug abuse and Carl had other problems. In January 1967 he resisted being drafted to fight in Vietnam, claiming to be a conscientious objector and refusing to take the oath of allegiance. He was arrested by the FBI and spent five days in jail. Assigned to

alternative civilian duty at Los Angeles Veterans' Hospital, he again refused, on the ground that the job would not make use of his talents.

When they were arraigned for trial, the case forced the Beach Boys to pull out of the now legendary Monterey Pop Festival. Carl was acquitted of draft evasion but the case dragged on. Two years later he was arraigned for failing to appear for community service work in the hospital. Eventually a compromise was reached which required the Beach Boys to play free concerts in hospitals and prisons.

Ironically, Carl's anti-war stance had given the Beach Boys a newfound credibility. During the 1970s they jammed with the Grateful Dead, played a huge anti-war rally in Washington and released the environmentally concerned album Surf's Up, which also marked Carl's growing maturity as a songwriter. He also stretched his wings by appearing with other artists and sang on Elton John's Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me.

By 1981 Carl had left the fold, frustrated by the group's reliance on nostalgia. He attempted to establish a solo career, but after a poor-selling album he was back within a year. There has been only one album of newly recorded Beach Boys material in the past 15 years, Carl, occasionally joined by Brian, continued to tour with the group until his death, despite the fraternal goodwill being disturbed by Brian's autobiography, which portrayed Carl as an alcoholic and drug addict and led to threats of legal action.

If Carl Wilson felt a slave to his youthful past, he appeared to have found a way of living with it. Despite undergoing chemotherapy in April last year, he was back on the road within weeks to complete his last Beach Boys tour.

He is survived by his brother Brian, his second wife Gina (the daughter of Dean Martin) and two sons from his first marriage.

COLONEL BILL COOK

Colonel F. W. (Bill) Cook, M.C., M.B.E., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, died on January 23 aged 79. He was born on January 13, 1919.



After a wartime career in which he was severely wounded that it seemed likely he would never serve again, Bill Cook recovered to take part in many of the brushfire campaigns of the postwar period. In addition, he has his niche in the history of the peacetime British Army for the energy and initiative he applied to the setting up of the battle group training area at Suffield in Canada. Since the loss of such training areas in the Middle East and in Germany, this facility, in the wide open spaces of Alberta, has become vital to the Army for the exercising of artillery and armour. Cook kept up relentless pressure to make sure it was established on a sound footing.

Frank Wilkinson Cook (the origins of his universally used nickname are not clear) was the posthumous son of Frank Eadon Cook who had himself been awarded the MC during the First World War. Born into the world of Yorkshire mill-owners and lawyers, he had but one desire - to pursue an Army career. After Giggleswick School, however, he was articled to a solicitor but seized his opportunity when war broke out in 1939 and promptly enlisted. He was soon commissioned into the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (KOYLI).

His unit was sent out to France with the BEF after which he saw service in North Africa. As the Allies closed in on Axis forces with their backs to Tunis and the sea, in the final weeks of the campaign, Cook won his MC on April 22, 1943, when he led attacks with fixed bayonet and grenades on a series of German machine-gun nests which were holding up the British advance. In September that year, after the invasion of Italy, he took part in the fiercely contested landings at Salerno, and during

this campaign, was severely wounded.

He was invalided home to England, paralysed from the waist down, with no expectation on the part of the authorities that he would even walk, much less serve, again. Plans were made to buy him a farm so that he could still pursue an outdoor life, but no one had reckoned with Cook's temperament. When told by the surgeon that he would probably never walk again, his reply was "I will!" - and he did. Furthermore, sheer will-power eventually enabled him to return to active service in theatres ranging from the rainforests of the Tropics to the high plains of North America.

Thereafter he participated in many of the campaigns in which the British Army participated in the run-up to military withdrawal from many colonial possessions. Cook was in Malaya during the emergency and (after spells at SHAPE as military assistant to Montgomery's Chief of Staff, and at the Joint Services Staff College) with his battalion in Kenya in the latter stages of the campaign against the Mau Mau. He was next

sent to Cyprus with 45 Commando during the Eoka insurrection, for which he was appointed MBE.

After serving as Brigade Major with the 5th Infantry Brigade in the British Army of the Rhine, he was sent to command the King's African Rifles in Tanganyika and then served as garrison commander in British Honduras. His final posting was at the Ministry of Defence, where he supervised the establishment of the Canadian battle group training area in the 1960s.

Several years previously, KOYLI had become 2nd Battalion, Light Infantry Brigade and on retirement Cook was appointed Deputy Colonel (Yorkshire). He followed this with a period as regimental secretary and was instrumental in reorganising the regimental museum at Pontefract. Thus, he served his regiment almost to the end of his life.

Bill Cook hated fuss and frills and one always knew exactly where one stood with him. But no man was more loyal to his causes and no friend more true.

He married Eddie Braithwaite in 1948. She and their son survive him.

HALLDOR LAXNESS

Haldor Laxness, Icelandic writer who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1955, died on February 8 aged 95. He was born on April 23, 1902.

BY EAR the best-known Icelandic writer of the century, Haldor Laxness might well have won the Nobel Prize for literature sooner than he did, had it not been for the Swedish Academy's inhibition about awarding it to a recipient of the Stalin Prize. Certainly his

best work long predated 1955, the year in which he became a Nobel laureate. He was widely travelled and had absorbed influences as various as German Expressionism, Surrealism and American naturalism (and socialist Utopianism) - before arriving at a species of humanistic Taoism.

He had also had a long period as a convinced communist, though no one looked askance at this in Iceland, where the party has a history of representation in Parlia-

ment. Allied to a natural feeling for the ordinary people of Iceland's farming and fishing communities, communism made him an eloquent social novelist.

Haldor Kiljan Gudjonsson was born in Reykjavik, of prosperous parents. He took his pen-name, Laxness, from the name of his father's inland valley farm. He was educated at the Icelandic Latin School, and attended one term at Reykjavik Gymnasium before embarking on a series of travels throughout Scandinavia. He had published his first novel, Barn Natunnarinn ("A Child of Nature"), at the age of 17.

His life was full of sudden shifts of view and impulsive changes of mind. After wandering about Europe and working for a Copenhagen newspaper, he settled down for a year in 1923 in a Benedictine monastery in Luxembourg. Here he wrote the novel Undir Helgahnut ("At the Holy Mountain", 1924). At this monastery, St Maurice de Clervaux, he led a life of

religious devotion and meditation, and in 1923 he was received into the Roman Catholic Church. In 1924 he taught at the Jesuit-run school, Champion House, in Osterley, Middlesex.

In the later 1920s, in Sicily, he worked on the novel Vefarinn mikli frá Kashmir ("The Great Weaver from Kashmir", 1927). This is a memorable fictional account of his own struggle between religious asceticism and worldly pleasures. By the time he had completed the book, produced in a mood in which he felt that "the fundamental principles of Christianity and those of human life" were "incompatible", he had renounced his Catholicism. The influence of Strindberg was evident in this novel. Its publication caused a furore.

He spent the years 1927-29 in America, where he changed his views still more sharply, partly as a result of meeting the socialist Utopian novelist Upton Sinclair. He gave an account of this change of heart in his autobiography, Skaldarinn ("Poet's Time", 1963).

He had, meanwhile, been reading voraciously, not only in the naturalistic works of such American writers as Dreiser and Sinclair himself, but also in European Surrealism. His single volume of verse, which appeared in 1930, reflected this influence.

A series of socialist essays were collected in Alþýðubokin ("Book of Plain People", 1929). The novels which made his name are explorations and examinations of every aspect of Icelandic life: before 1944, and the formation of the independent Icelandic Republic, they were, like his essays,



strongly nationalistic in tone.

The two novels translated into English in 1934 as Salta Vaika describe a small fishing village in which the labour movement pits its new-found strength against capitalist merchants and fishing magnates. Sjalfstætt folk (1934-35), translated as Independent People (1945), is his first major novel. It is the story of an obstinate farmer against the background of what Laxness regarded as the feudal condition of the peasantry in Iceland.

Laxness was by now a hero of the Left and a bête noire of the conservative press. But he now called himself "a leftist socialist", not a communist. His massive tetralogy Heimstíjos (1937-40), about a flawed but vitalistic folk poet called Olafur Karason, made him no

more popular with the Right, who disapproved of his protagonist's rough behaviour. The whole of this work appeared in English as World Light (1969).

The question of Icelandic independence now became a burning issue. (When the Nazis had overrun Denmark in 1940, British troops occupied Iceland, until then a more or less autonomous Danish dependency.) Laxness now turned to the historical novel. The 1940s trilogy republished in 1957 as Islandslovak (Iceland's Bell) is the story of an 18th-century Icelandic in conflict with a repressive government at home and badly intentioned foreign powers abroad; its contemporary implications were obvious.

Atomstöðin (1948), translated as The Atom Station, is a

protest against the Icelandic Government's action in allowing the Americans military facilities. Gerpla (1952) translated as The Happy Warriors (1958) is a satirical attack on all dictators - whether of right or left.

After Laxness had received the Nobel Prize he toured America, India, China and a number of other countries. After that, however, he moved away from social criticism and politics to a more philosophical attitude. Brekkukotsannal (1957), translated in 1966 as The Fish Can Sing, preaches, a little ruefully, the lesson that the artist must never become embroiled in political dogma. The Taoist influence of avoidance of aggression becomes apparent for the first time.

Laxness's Brechtian play Dufnaveitan (1966) of which there is an English version called The Pigeon Banquet, was no more successful than his other excursions into drama. In A Rhyne of God's Gift (1972), Laxness indulged his Taoism, lapsing into what his critics considered "a mildly conservative cast of mind".

Laxness owed an enormous debt to his compatriot, the writer and Esperanto enthusiast Thorbergur Thorbjarnson (1880-1975), but nonetheless derived his international experience as a writer of sinewy power and humane convictions. He translated many works into Icelandic, including Voltaire's Candide, which exercised a strong influence on his later work.

Laxness was twice married, first in 1930 to Ingibjörg Einarsdóttir, by whom he had one son, and secondly to Andur Svendsdóttir. She, their two daughters and the son of his first marriage, survive him.

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A SUFFRAGIST MATINEE

Both on and off the stage, starting with the topical prologue spoken by Miss Eva Moore with due sarcasm, there was a spirit of hopeful resolve at the matinee given yesterday by the Women Writers' Suffrage League.

ON THIS DAY

February 10, 1912. In contrast to some notorious activities this suffragette recital was mild, too mild, perhaps, to have included Congreve's lines: Heaven's no rage, like love to hatred turned.

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Widget Finn says that even small firms can benefit from part-time directors

An outsider who brings inside knowledge

Teddy bear quality explains secret of non-execs' appeal

COUSINS Design Consultancy, based in Bristol, was established last year and is ambitious to grow rapidly (Widget Finn writes). Alan Paveley, the commercial director, knew it needed a non-executive director who would widen horizons and help the company to enter the London market.

Many small businesses believe that non-executive directors are an expensive and interfering irrelevance. The Cadbury, Greenbury and Hempel reports focus on the corporate governance role of non-executives in public companies with responsibility for protecting shareholders' interests, but non-executives have a different though equally valuable place in small and medium-sized enterprises.



Trio in harmony: Tim Neame, left, Patrick Dunne, centre, and Martin Myerscough all recognise the value of non-executive directors

of non-executives for small companies, adds that a non-executive director is not necessarily a lifelong fixture. "A particular board member might be helpful for a period, but when the need changes you should consider changing the director, too."

company the non-executive must understand the politics of family boards, argues John Harper, professional development director at the Institute of Directors. The interplay of power is different in a small company and often more deference is paid to a non-executive than in a large organisation.

rect, but it can give balance to a board where an older person joins a young company, or an injection of youth and new vision is added to a group of mature directors.

15,000 for a business with a turnover of less than £10 million. The cost of finding a non-exec ranges from £500 for using GRO-NED's register and £1,500 for access to the Institute of Directors' database to the IOD's individual search service at £15,000, and even more for the services of a headhunter.

Technology support centres top fifty mark

MORE than 50 Local Support Centres to help small businesses to cope with communications and information technology have now been established across the country. The latest to open are five in the North East last month. A further 17 centres are due to open this spring and the target is to have 80 operating by the end of this year.

Advertisement for 'Hector goes to live in heaven' featuring a cartoon character and text about tax returns.

A guide to help businesses to prepare for the single European currency has been prepared by Wilde Sapte, the City law firm, and the DHT, the German equivalent of the Confederation of British Industry.

This year's Carlton Enterprise Fair will be held at the New Connaught Rooms, Covent Garden, London, on February 13 and 14. More than 40 exhibitors will offer advice on setting up or running a small business.

Two Business Links are offering help on coping with the millennium computer timebomb. Hampshire is running workshops at Eastleigh on March 5, Basingstoke on March 12 and Portsmouth on March 26.

The Centre for Business Incubation, a national organisation to help young growing industries, has been established at Aston Science Park, Birmingham. The organisation will also have offices in London.

London Electricity is running a competition for companies with fewer than 75 employees who can show how they could become more successful using information technology.

New awards have been introduced by the Focus Central London training and enterprise council and Midland Bank to recognise the capital's best companies and most successful individuals.

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Advertisement for Kwik-Kwik, offering services like 'Do you just want to make a living?' and 'Or build a future?'.

Advertisement for 'The Interest Free Time Machine' featuring a 200M-2 processor and various software titles.

Advertisement for KJC mobile phones, featuring a '33% more for free' offer on the Nokia 3110.

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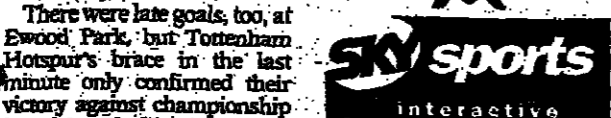
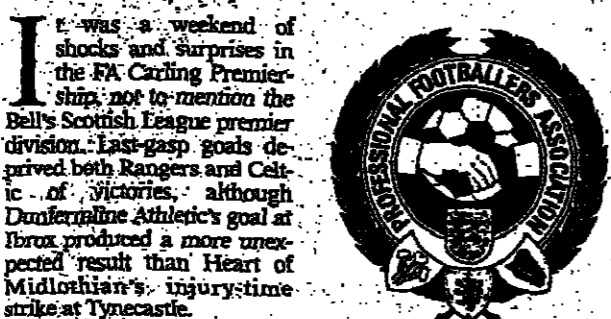
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# Look to the Cup for those inevitable shocks

### After a weekend of surprising results, the stage is set for the oldest competition of them all to excite once more



It was a weekend of shocks and surprises in the FA Cup Premier division. Last-gasp goals deprived Rangers and Celtic of victories, although Dundee's Athletic's goal at Ibrox produced a more unexpected result than Heart of Midlothian's triumph at Tynecastle.

There were late goals, too, at Ewood Park, but Tottenham Hotspur's brace in the last minute only confirmed their victory against championship hopefuls Blackburn Rovers. Rovers would probably have liked a nice, easy fixture, if only a thing exists these days, to help them to recover from that shock to their system: a Cup match against West Ham United at Upton Park certainly does not fit the bill.

In fact, last weekend's results suggest that anyone can beat anyone else at the moment, which ITF entrants would do well to bear in mind in advance of the next rounds of the FA and Scottish cups. If Motherwell v Rangers and Dundee Athletic v Celtic look too close to call, at least the game at Tynecastle between Hearts and Albion Rovers promises some safe points for ITF entrants. The joint leaders of the Scottish League at home to a team three divisions below them may be the closest thing to a formality on Saturday.

Chelsea were fresh, and they had added a further five to their Cup tally at the expense of Walsall. But what if Keith Brannagan, the Bolton Wanderers goalkeeper, had not made that ill-advised rush from goal six minutes from the end of Saturday's game, allowing Andy Cole to equalise? A second successive home defeat for the championship leaders, especially against a team occupying one of the relegation places, would have set alarm bells ringing in advance of the Manchester United v Barnsley game on Sunday.

When the two teams met on the same ground in the Premiership in the autumn, United famously won 7-0. But now? The corpse of Barnsley's hopes of remaining in the top flight has been twitching recently, with a run of four wins and two draws in their past six home games, and if they could take United back to Old Trafford for a replay, who knows?

Given an away record that does not bear too much close scrutiny, Barnsley would not be many people's bet to survive at Old Trafford, but the same was said about Bolton last week. Add to that the declared intention of Alex Ferguson, the United manager, to rotate his squad for home Cup games, and the ingredients could be in place for another unpredictable weekend.

NICK SZCZEPANIK

## AND THIS SATURDAY'S FA CUP SCORES ARE...



MANCHESTER UNITED 1 BARNLSLEY 2  
WIMBLEDON 2 WOLVERHAMPTON W 3



NEWCASTLE UNITED 0 TRANMERE 1  
LEEDS UNITED 0 BIRMINGHAM CITY 3

## THIS WEEK'S MOVES

**MOVED**  
41401 Gary Speed Newcastle £3.5m (from Everton)

**OUT**  
61601 Jim Duffy Hibernian £1m

### HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

YOU MAY transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

EACH TEAM that was entered at the start of the season was allocated 60 transfers for the season and each team registering after that date had its number of transfers reduced by three per week up to December 13. Teams registered before that day were allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered since then and from now on will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.

THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-Tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-Tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

YOUR NEW player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

CALLS COST 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628. Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

Code	Name	Team	£	FA(w)	FR	LA	Leg(w)	Tot
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	1.50	0	2	3	20	
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0	13	0	72	
10301	M Beenhack	Aston Villa	3.00	0	16	8	60	
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00	3	13	0	-20	
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn	4.00	0	9	-5	-80	
10601	K Brannagan	Bolton W	1.50	0	0	2	35	
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00	0	0	0	0	
10801	J Gould	Celtic	4.00	0	0	8	-66	
10901	E de Geoy	Clydesdale	3.00	0	-9	0	64	
11001	O Grzegorzewski	Coventry City	1.50	0	0	0	17	
11101	C Nash	Crystal Palace	0.25	0	0	0	0	
11201	K Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00	0	16	0	49	
11301	M Poom	Dunfermline	2.50	0	8	2	73	
11401	S Dykstra	Dundee Utd	2.00	0	8	8	29	
11501	J Westwood	Dunfermline	1.00	0	-2	2	4	
11601	N Southall	Everton	2.00	0	0	0	3	
11701	T Molyneux	Everton	2.00	0	0	-3	-3	
11801	G Rousseau	Hearts	3.50	0	0	0	45	
11901	C Reid	Hibernian	1.50	0	0	0	-8	
12001	O Göttsche	Hibernian	1.50	0	0	-5	-1	
12101	G Marshall	Kilmarnock	1.50	0	0	0	-1	
12201	N Martin	Leeds Utd	3.50	0	10	2	26	
12301	K Keller	Leicester City	3.00	0	3	9	79	
12401	D Jones	Liverpool	4.00	0	-5	-7	-80	
12501	P Schmeichel	Man Utd	5.00	0	2	2	106	
12601	S Howie	Motherwell	1.00	0	0	0	0	
12701	S Gilvin	Newcastle	3.00	0	0	2	19	
12801	A Goiran	Rangers	5.00	0	3	0	45	
12901	K Pressman	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	5	2	13	
13001	P Jones	Southampton	2.00	0	0	-2	-24	
13101	A Main	St Johnstone	0.50	0	8	2	57	
13201	J Walker	Tottenham	2.50	0	3	0	22	
13301	L Mladokic	West Ham	2.00	0	0	0	4	
13401	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50	0	13	0	72	

Code	Name	Team	£	FA(w)	FR	LA	Leg(w)	Tot
30101	B O'Neill	Aberdeen	2.00	0	-1	2	-7	
30201	A Adams	Arsenal	3.00	0	1	5	27	
30301	M Knowen	Arsenal	3.00	0	5	0	0	
30401	S Grmmandi	Arsenal	2.00	0	6	2	26	
30501	S Bost	Arsenal	3.00	0	6	4	26	
30601	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.00	0	4	5	20	
30701	U Ehugbo	Aston Villa	3.00	0	7	5	31	
30801	A de Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00	1	5	0	-13	
30901	A Moses	Barnsley	0.50	1	6	-1	-16	
31001	M Appleby	Barnsley	0.50	0	0	0	-10	
31101	C Hendry	Blackburn	3.00	0	5	-2	41	
31201	S Heuchez	Blackburn	2.00	0	5	-2	32	
31301	G Tagger	Blackburn	3.00	0	0	0	2	
31401	G Baggan	Bolton W	1.50	0	0	0	5	
31501	C Clarke	Bolton W	1.00	0	0	0	-9	
31601	C Falcough	Bolton W	1.00	0	0	0	-9	
31701	M Fish	Bolton W	1.50	0	0	0	10	
31801	E Annoni	Celtic	1.50	0	1	0	19	
31901	M MacKay	Celtic	3.00	0	0	0	2	
32001	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.00	0	5	1	54	
32101	M Ripper	Celtic	3.00	0	5	-1	41	
32201	F Lebour	Chelsea	3.00	0	-5	-2	-36	
32301	M Dumbour	Chelsea	3.00	0	-4	-1	-20	
32401	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50	0	0	0	-3	
32501	B Lambourde	Chelsea	2.50	0	0	0	-3	
32601	L Dashi	Coventry City	1.50	0	0	0	0	
32701	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	6	5	23	
32801	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	0	0	0	-11	
32901	A Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	10	0	21	
33001	A Lingham	Crystal Palace	0.75	0	10	0	15	
33101	H Hreidarsson	Crystal Palace	1.00	0	10	0	5	
33201	J Egan	Darby	2.50	0	4	0	22	
33301	J Laurson	Darby	1.50	0	-1	0	13	
33401	S Pressley	Dunfermline	2.00	0	4	5	21	
33501	G Shields	Dunfermline	1.50	0	0	0	-4	
33601	S Bilic	Everton	1.50	0	0	0	-19	
33701	D Watson	Everton	1.50	0	0	-1	12	
33801	C Tiler	Everton	1.50	0	0	0	12	
33901	D Walr	Hearts	3.00	0	9	0	33	
34001	J Hughes	Hibernian	2.00	0	0	-13	-13	
34101	D Withersall	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	10	-1	45	
34201	R Molinar	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	14	0	26	
34301	L Radebe	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	9	0	27	
34401	M Elliott	Leicester City	3.50	0	3	4	59	
34501	P Kearmark	Leicester City	2.00	0	3	5	47	
34601	S Walsh	Leicester City	2.50	0	-2	0	34	
34701	S Pryor	Leicester City	2.00	0	5	4	17	
34801	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00	0	0	0	5	
34901	D Matteo	Liverpool	3.00	0	-2	-2	37	
35001	B T Kverne	Liverpool	3.00	0	-1	0	31	
35101	H Berg	Man Utd	3.50	0	1	-1	33	
35201	D Mlay	Man Utd	3.50	0	0	0	0	
35301	G Pallister	Man Utd	3.50	0	-1	-1	43	
35401	P Albert	Newcastle	2.50	1	1	1	10	
35501	D Peacock	Newcastle	3.00	0	4	0	10	
35601	S Howey	Newcastle	2.00	1	1	1	7	
35701	A Platow	Newcastle	3.00	1	4	1	19	
35801	S Ponnit	Rangers	3.50	0	1	4	46	
35901	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	0	0	-1	37	
36001	L Amoroso	Rangers	3.50	0	0	0	0	
36101	R Gough	Rangers	4.00	0	5	0	16	
36201	D Walker	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	3	0	5	
36301	J Newson	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	3	-1	12	
36401	P Atherton	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	3	0	10	
36501	R Dryden	Southampton	1.00	0	0	0	-2	
36601	C Lundakvam	Southampton	1.50	0	0	1	10	
36701	K Monk	St Johnstone	1.50	0	-1	1	16	
36801	S McCluskey	St Johnstone	0.50	0	0	0	10	
36901	S Campbell	Tottenham	2.00	-2	3	3	13	
37001	J Scoble	Tottenham	1.50	0	0	0	1	
37101	R Vega	Tottenham	1.50	-3	-2	1	7	
37201	C Calderwood	Tottenham	1.50	0	4	0	12	
37301	R Ferdinand	West Ham	2.50	0	1	5	16	
37401	R Hall	West Ham	2.00	0	0	0	0	
37501	D Unsworth	West Ham	2.00	0	2	0	16	
37601	S Potts	West Ham	1.50	0	1	1	9	
37701	I Pearce	West Ham	2.00	0	2	5	11	
37801	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.50	0	9	0	25	
37901	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50	0	4	0	21	

Code	Name	Team	£	FA(w)	FR	LA	Leg(w)	Tot
40001	P Pollock	Bolton W	2.00	0	1	1	35	
40101	P O'Donnell	Celtic	3.00	0	0	0	7	
40201	R Bittner	Celtic	3.00	0	2	0	24	
40301	C Burley	Celtic	4.00	0	3	2	30	
40401	P Lambert	Celtic	3.00	0	3	2	30	
40501	D Wise	Chelsea	3.50	0	0	0	38	
40601	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	4.00	0	0	0	40	
40701	E Newton	Chelsea	1.50	0	0	1	13	
40801	G Poyter	Chelsea	3.00	0	0	0	28	
40901	G McAllister	Coventry City	2.50	0	0	0	20	
41001	T E Slotved	Coventry City	1.50	0	3	2	31	
41101	K Salako	Coventry City	1.50	0	0	0	15	
41201	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50	0	7	3	23	
41301	G Boeteng	Coventry City	1.50	0	0	3	3	
41401	S Rodgers	Crystal Palace	1.00	0	0	0	29	
41501	D Pflueger	Crystal Palace	2.00	0	0	0	0	
41601	P Warhurst	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	3	0	34	
41701	A Lombardo	Crystal Palace	3.00	0	0	0	22	
41801	S Eranio	Derby	3.50	0	1	1	33	
41901	D Powell	Derby	1.50	0	3	0	17	
42001	C Dally	Derby	1.50	0	0	1	20	
42101	R van der Laan	Derby	1.00	0	0	0	16	
42201	J Hirst	Dunfermline	3.50	0	6	2	53	
42301	R Winters	Dunfermline	3.50	0	8	2	33	
42401	A Smith	Everton	3.50	0	0	1	51	
42501	G Spirdy	Everton	1.50	0	0	0	0	
42601	G Farrelly	Everton	1.50	0	1	0	17	
42701	D Williamson	Everton	2.00	0	0	0	19	
42801	J Oster	Everton	2.50	0	-1	0	5	
42901	N McCann	Hibernian	3.50	0	2	1	61	
43001	K Lavery	Hibernian	2.00	0	1	1	11	
43101	F Jackson	Hibernian	2.00	0	0	1	25	
43201	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	2.00	0	0	1	35	

NEWS

Peers vote to stop price-cutting

The Government suffered a heavy defeat as peers voted to restrict cut-price campaigns by national newspapers. The Lords voted by 121 votes to 93 for an amendment to the Competition Bill which aimed to prevent any newspaper abusing a "dominant position" to "eliminate" any rival publications. Ministers will attempt to overturn it in the Commons but will face trouble from the Left. Page 1

Royal Family wants early inquest

Members of the Royal Family are pressing for a swift inquest into the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, to try to end the feverish speculation and conspiracy theories surrounding her last hours. Buckingham Palace is increasingly anxious for the French authorities to complete their criminal investigation to enable a British inquest to go ahead. Pages 1, 3, 15-17

Iraq gas stocks

President Saddam Hussein has built up big stocks of the nerve gas Agent 15, which is designed to stupefy enemy forces. The gas can be fired from missiles or put in water supplies. Pages 1, 13

£57,000 for nightmare

A former Royal Marine was awarded £57,000 compensation for the "recurring nightmare" he has suffered after going to the aid of survivors of the Kegworth air disaster. Page 7

Powell's poems

A batch of Enoch Powell's early love poems were at the centre of a literary mystery after a senior Church of England clergyman claimed they were addressed to a man. Page 1

Murder admission

An apparently respectable student was jailed for life for the murder of Louise Smith, 18, two years ago. David Frost, 22, admitted the crime. Page 8

Sour note

The organisers of the Brit Awards attacked the sneering "hypocrisy" of bands who refused to perform at the ceremony to maintain street credibility. Page 1

Helping servants

Overseas domestic staff are to be given the right to leave their employers under government plans to curb ill-treatment and improve working conditions. Page 10

CSA reform

A simple tax rate for child maintenance payments is being considered by Ministers as part of a radical reform of the Child Support Agency to be announced in the summer. Page 2

Nigerian attack

Nigeria launched a big air and artillery offensive against Sierra Leone's military junta in a campaign that owes more to a desire for diamonds than a respect for democracy. Page 11

Curate retires

A Church of England curate has taken early retirement over his relationship with a trainee Baptist minister sent to his parish on work experience. Page 5

Euro under fire

Germany's opponents to the euro closed ranks for a final charge against Helmut Kohl's cherished project of a common European currency. Page 12

Testing time

Most primary school pupils may face national tests every year from the age of seven making English children the most tested in the Western world. Page 6

Cigar alarm

US health officials, alarmed by spiralling cigar sales among women and younger smokers, may soon require cigar advertisements to carry the Surgeon General's health warning. Page 14

Women's gloomy view of life

Women say their life is all work, little play and even less passion. They are depressed about their looks, worried about their health, frequently stressed and overwhelmingly believe that men have the better deal in life. The findings are from replies sent in by 5,000 women to a survey conducted by the magazine Top Santé in association with Bupa. Page 4



Spectators' seats are cleared at the Winter Olympics in Hakuba, Japan. Heavy snow has delayed some ski events. Page 47

BUSINESS

Banks: The converted building societies, are so flush with cash that they could afford to hand back £1.7 billion to their shareholders this year. Page 27

SPORT

Cricket: Carl Hooper, the man of the match, scored an outstanding 94 not out to steer West Indies to a three-wicket victory over England in the second Test in Port of Spain. Page 52

ARTS

Viennese whirr: The all-male dance troupe with the silly name - the Featherstonehaughs - has a new show based on the sketches of Egon Schiele. Page 34

FEATURES

Diana's death: The Times begins its serialisation of the most searching journalistic investigation into the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. We reveal details of the missing pregnancy test files; the desperate fight to save Diana's life and, for the first time, Mohamed Al Fayed speaks of his loss. Page 15-17

British Airways

The airline's third-quarter profits fell below many analysts' expectations after a surprise £32 million charge. Page 27

Football

Alan Shearer is delighted to be back in the England squad for the international against Chile at Wembley, hoping to play a part in the game. Page 48

Singing along

In defiance of Government moves against music in our primary schools, a charity is introducing children and their teachers to the joys of singing. Page 34

Dr Thomas Stuttard

On cancer of the cervix, diabetes, flower allergies, backache and phantom pregnancies. Page 16

Economy

High street sales came back in January after a mixed Christmas as shoppers rushed to pick up bargains in the sales. Sales growth ran at its highest since August 1996. Page 27

Rugby union

The French have complained to the RFU over allegations that Jason Leonard stamped on Thomas Liévremont during the international in Paris. Page 52

Never the bride

Joan Cusack has gone from being Melanie Griffith's best friend in Working Girl to playing the jilted bride of Kevin Kline in the comedy In & Out. Page 35

Continental drift

The Gate Theatre has launched a season of European plays with offerings from Germany and Norway that leave Benedict Nightingale unmoved. Page 36

Markets

The FTSE 100 fell 28.3 points to 5600.9. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 104.4 to 104.2 after a fall from \$1.6505 to \$1.6340 but a rise from DM2.9603 to DM2.9639. Page 30

Athletics

Andy Norman, the former British promotions officer, is playing an increasingly influential role in the effort to resuscitate the sport in this country. Page 46

Outsiders

Small firms can benefit from part-time directors. Page 23

Action plan

John Morris, QC, tells Frances Gibb how he worked to Attorney-General. Page 39

Serving justice

The case of the judge and the media: how could justice be best served? Page 41

What is most disturbing

about the Palestinian support for any potential Iraqi aggression against Israel, even if not endorsed by the leadership, is that it smacks of a Palestinian return to this rejectionist camp that is not interested in negotiating peace on any terms. Israel's need to be convinced that the peace process is not just about land for the Palestinians, but also peace for Israelis. - The Jerusalem Post

Cast Wilson

singer, Colonel Bill Cook; Fielder Luque; Nobel prizewinning writer. Page 21

Enoch Powell's "first love"

and Heath's alleged Iraq; European federalist; vaccinations. Page 19



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

PROPERTY The People & Property supplement comes up with some sure ideas for those who seek the quiet life

INTERFACE Traps to beware if you seek love on the Internet

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,711

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 27 indicating the starting positions for the clues. The grid is partially filled with letters.

- ACROSS
1 One who ruled in pre-Antoine Rome (4).
3 Might be get one person lbw? (4,6).
9 The sound of a pig at home in agreeable surroundings (4).
10 What workers give the queen - for palace parties? (5,5).
12 Courage perceived to be genuine (9).
13 Material for Suzette? (5).
14 Go into battle to win some ground (4,3,5).
18 After a licking, one's put in the corner (7,5).
21 Point we're wrong about - make a fresh start (5).
22 A leader of opinion? (9).
24 Game boss producing good position for expansion (10).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,710. A grid of letters corresponding to the crossword puzzle, with some letters highlighted in a different color.

AN INFORMATION

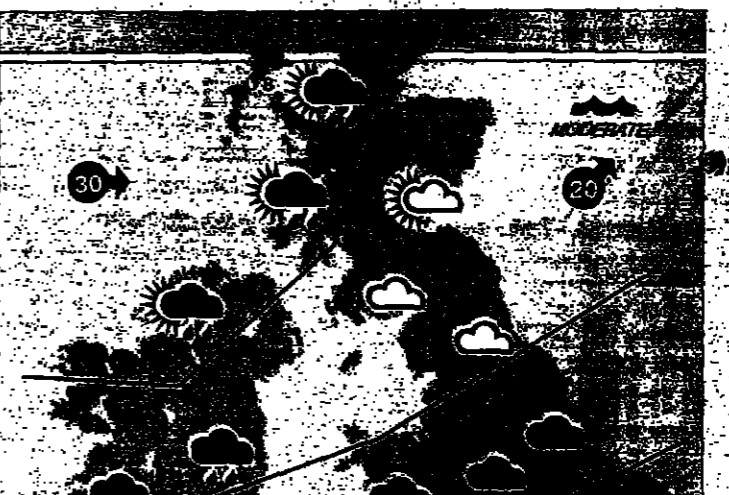
Latest Road and Weather conditions. UK Weather - All regions. UK Roads - All regions. Motorway by Fax. World City Weather. Motorising. Car reports by fax. Hours of Darkness. Newspapers Support Recycling.

FORECAST

General: mild again everywhere. Scotland will be windy with showers, but there will also be sunny spells. Northern Ireland and northern England will see a few showers, but also bright spells. Wind and central England will be mostly dull with light rain. There may also be some drizzle in southwest England but the South East will be dry and bright.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=dry; dr=drizzle; ds=drizzle; du=dull; f=fog; g=gale; h=halt; l=light; m=moderate; o=overcast; s=sunny; sp=sprinkle; st=storm; t=thunder; w=windy.



Changes to chart below from noon: High will be above 1000mb with changes in pressure. Low L is likely to move E. Bling slowly. Low T will move NE with little change in pressure.

ABROAD

Table with columns for location, temperature, and weather conditions. Locations include Aberdeen, London, Manchester, etc.

TODAY

Table with columns for location, AM, HT, PM, and HT. Locations include Aberdeen, London, Manchester, etc.

CANT CEDAR WOOD FOR THE TREES? So many private health schemes, so many choices. WPA Cedar is the simple choice value-for-money, all the benefits you want, and unbeatable customer service.

However many times you hop across to Europe you're covered with our travel insurance. From £59.95 a year. To enrol call between 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday quoting reference TWB01.

Bid-ta. A large advertisement for Bid-ta, featuring a stylized graphic and text about the service.

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, featuring a large number '2' and text about '£1.7bn windfall possible from new banks'.

# THE TIMES 2

INSIDE SECTION

2 TODAY

## BUSINESS

Surveying outlook sees firms look west in fight for capital  
PAGE 31

## ARTS

Joan Cusack takes the mantle of film success  
PAGES 34-36

## SPORT

Fowler intent on making striking return  
PAGES 45-52

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10 1998

## £1.7bn windfall possible from new banks

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S new banks, the converted building societies, are to flush with cash that they could afford to hand back £1.7 billion to their shareholders this year. Halifax, Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester are sitting on excess capital with a combined value of £3 billion, according to research published by Salomon Smith Barney, the US investment bank. Salomon believes the three banks could comfortably return a third of this surplus during the 1997 financial year before running into problems with advance corporation tax. Distribution would be either through a share buyback or payment of a special dividend.

Salomon argues that the three banks must reduce their cash levels to the industry norm if they are to make optimum use of their assets. Two of the banks, Halifax and Woolwich, have already indicated they may return some of the surplus to shareholders.

The excess capital can either be used to support growth, organic or by acquisition - or it can be returned to shareholders. Salomon said it saw few opportunities to deploy current capital in existing business lines while the acquisition route involved risk.

Halifax, the UK's largest mortgage lender, has the biggest cash mountain. It could return an estimated £1.2 billion this year, and double that amount in 1998. Alliance & Leicester has £357 million, while Woolwich has £211 million. Again, both banks would be able to return double that amount next year.

Shareholders in Woolwich are most likely to benefit from a share buyback or special dividend. John Stewart, chief executive, intends to present plans to return excess capital to shareholders at the bank's annual meeting on April 22. Mike Blackburn, chief executive of the Halifax, has said he would have no qualms about a special dividend or share buyback in the absence of a suitable acquisition. But Alliance & Leicester says it would prefer to use its surplus to finance organic growth or an acquisition.

Commentary, page 29

# Railtrack aims to save £2.7bn by shortening tunnel link

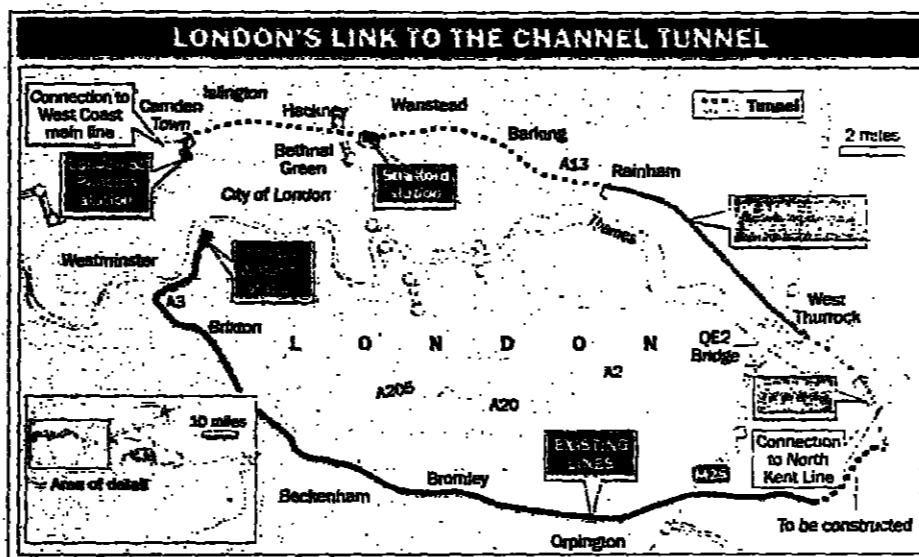
BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RAILTRACK is pressing ministers to cut the cost of the Channel Tunnel rail link by some £2.7 billion by ending the high-speed section short of London.

A £1.3-billion high-speed link, finishing in north Kent rather than London's St Pancras station, will be put forward by the Railtrack board as its price for rescuing the beleaguered project.

The plan, to run the link only to Southfleet, close to Ebbsfleet, south of the River Thames and then connect to Waterloo station via existing slow lines, is estimated to reduce costs from £4 billion to £1.3 billion.

The original 68-mile scheme, running to St Pancras under the Thames and via East London, involved more than 12 miles of tunnelling which Railtrack believes is not commercially



feasible. Railtrack remains the leading candidate to take over the project which fell into disarray last month when London & Continental Railways, the consortium behind

the scheme, asked the Government to bail out the project. The consortium asked for a further £1.8 billion, on top of £1.2 billion already promised by the previous Government

when it was unable to raise private sector funds. The consortium, which was also losing £180 million a year running the Eurostar train service, was facing total costs of some

£6 billion, when debts and interest were taken into account.

Railtrack executives refuse to commit the group to a similar full-scale link. A board meeting on Thursday is expected to agree to a low-cost plan to be put to John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister.

Gerald Corbett, Railtrack's chief executive, said: "It is our job to come up with opportunities for the Government which are commercially feasible. These are huge sums of money for a relatively small benefit. We have come up with a solution for the Government, but if the Government wants to run with it, it is up to them."

However, a move to scale down the high-speed section to little over 40 miles will bring opposition from the business community which has pressed for a link to St Pancras to regenerate parts of East London and ensure links with other parts of the rail network. It would not even reach Ebbsfleet, the station that was ex-

pected to serve M25 motorway traffic south of the Thames.

Railtrack directors are also nervous about overcommitting the company which also has its sights set on taking over all or part of the London Underground infrastructure, which ministers are expected to offer to the private sector.

Mr Prescott is expected to unveil plans for both the high-speed link and London Underground this month. Mr Corbett said: "We would not want to do something that precluded us from the Tube."

Railtrack believes that it can reduce costs to a third by cutting out expensive tunnelling under the Thames and East and North London. Directors say the shorter route would deliver half the planned reduction in journey time between London and Brussels and Paris. The full 68-mile link was expected to reduce journeys by 35 minutes.

Commentary, page 29

## January sales succeed in tempting back shoppers

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

HIGH street sales bounced back in January after a mixed Christmas as shoppers rushed to pick up bargains in the winter sales.

The British Retail Consortium sales monitor for January, published today, shows sales growth running at its highest monthly levels since August 1996.

However, the underlying rate of growth slowed and the BRC cautioned that the big jump in January sales reflected consumer "price-consciousness" rather than a return to boom conditions.

Inflation fears were also eased by producer prices data yesterday showing factory-gate prices rising at the slowest rate for nearly 12 years.

High street sales rose at an annual rate of 6.1 per cent last month, compared with 4.8 per cent in December. However, the quarterly growth rate fell to 4 per cent from 4.7 per cent at the same point last year.

Andrew Higginson, chairman of the BRC economic affairs committee, said: "Undoubtedly customers are becoming more bargain-conscious and are waiting for the

sales before buying. Factory-gate prices showed no monthly increase in January, pushing the annual rate of growth down from 1 per cent to 0.7 per cent, the lowest rise since mid-1996. The subdued data followed another fall in oil prices which pushed raw material prices 9.7 per cent lower than at the same stage last year.

The fall in producer prices - which bodes well for the retail inflation figures today - failed to cheer the markets. The FTSE 100 declined by 28.8 points to 5,600.9 after a bout of profit taking.

Fund managers, however, remain bullish about the outlook for the market, according to the Merrill Lynch/Gallup monthly survey. Buyers of UK equities outnumbered sellers by the largest amount since mid-1995, with the FTSE 100 particularly favoured. The survey showed that fund managers are running down their high cash levels which should provide further support for the market. Institutions are also returning to the troubled markets in Asia, with stocks in Hong Kong and Thailand especially back in favour.



Robert Ayling, who has discussed the alliance at the US Embassy, was upbeat about its future

## BA lands surprise charge from US

BY ADAM JONES

BRITISH AIRWAYS' third-quarter profits fell below many analysts' expectations yesterday after a surprise £32 million charge.

The airline announced pre-tax profits of £80 million for the three months to December 31 (£113 million). The profits were dragged down by £32 million of late charges from General Electric of the US for engine maintenance work.

BA shares rose 7p to 560p. Turnover rose 6.9 per cent against the third quarter of 1996 to £2 billion and BA said trading conditions should remain favourable.

The passenger load factor fell from 71.2 per cent to 67.7 per cent. Lower fuel prices added £39 million to the quarter's profits. BA said the airline's efficiency drive will improve profits by more than £200 million this year.

The strong pound knocked £42 million off earnings and a £200 million charge is expected for the full year.

BA would not comment on the status of its delayed alliance with American Airlines, but Robert Ayling, chief executive, said there was "generally a more positive atmosphere about alliances" among regulators.

Tempus, page 30

## BUSINESS TODAY

### STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5600.9	(-28.8)
Yield	2.52%	
FTSE All share	2600.77	(-9.16)
NIKKEI	17205.00	(+194.94)
New York		
Dow Jones	8173.80	(-15.69)
S&P Composite	1008.48	(-3.98)

### US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	102 1/2%	(102 1/2%)
Yield	5.94%	(5.92%)

### LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	7 1/4%	(7 1/4%)
Life long gilt		
future (Mar)	122 1/2%	(122 1/2%)

### STERLING

New York		
\$	1.6345	(1.6435)
London		
DM	1.6323	(1.6325)
DM	2.9824	(2.9800)
FF	9.5213	(9.5217)
SP	2.3388	(2.3387)
Yen	203.09	(203.88)
\$ Index	104.2	(104.4)

### DOLLAR

London		
DM	1.8160	(1.8090)
FF	6.0867	(6.0615)
SP	1.4847	(1.4883)
Yen	124.17	(123.37)
\$ Index	108.1	(107.3)
Tokyo close Yen 124.72		

### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr) \$15.50 (\$15.45)

### GOLD

London close \$301.35 (\$298.45)  
\* denotes midday trading price

## Departing GGT head seeks £9m damages

BY JASON NISSE

FRANK ASSUMMA, the advertising executive who presided over the collapse of GGT's Group's New York agency, is suing the group for \$14.6 million (about £9 million).

The action, served on GGT's New York business, Wells BDDP, late last week, demands \$2.6 million for breach of contract, \$10 million for loss of future earnings and \$2 million "exemplary damages for alleged intentional defamation."

Mr Assumma was replaced as president of Wells BDDP last month after the firm lost \$80 million of work from Procter & Gamble, the US consumer goods group. P&G was said to be unhappy about the departure of three senior executives who fell out with Mr Assumma.

The P&G defection prompted a 40 per cent drop in GGT's share price and led its chairman, Mike Greenlees, to agree a £143 million takeover bid from Omnicom, the US marketing services group.

The legal action is disclosed in Omnicom's offer document, which also reveals that Mr Greenlees is on a contract paying a basic salary of £500,000 and a potential bonus of up to £400,000. He and Jean-Marie Dru, who runs GGT's French operations, are to take up senior posts with Omnicom following the takeover, and they have been offered five-year contracts.

City Diary, page 31

## Bid-target Argos recruits chief who cannot lose

BY FRASER NELSON

STUART ROSE, former chief executive of a large part of the Burton retailing empire, has been recruited to defend Argos against the £1.6 billion bid launched by Great Universal Stores. He stands to gain £540,000 if the catalogue retailer falls to a takeover at any point in the next two years.

Mr Rose said: "I have turned down two other job offers to accept this one, and I think it only fair and proper that if I would lose my job then I should have compensation. I've dropped everything to be available to Argos, and I would not have joined if I did not think we have a very good chance of seeing off this bid."

One senior City source said: "I have some

sympathy with Argos. Mr Rose is well regarded and they badly need a credible name as chief executive. In these bid situations you need an attractive package to win anyone decent."

Mr Rose has been out of work since August, when John Hoerner, chief executive of Burton Group, decided to take sole responsibility for the Top Shop to Principles

chain stores after the demerger of Debenhams. He is one of the few top managers in UK retail who is immediately available. He is being given a £180,000 golden handshake, and an annual salary of £320,000 with pension supplement of £40,000. He will receive his full entitlement if Argos succumbs to a takeover bid.

Argos shares fell 2p to 618p yesterday

after Vendex International, the Dutch retail group tipped as potential counter-bidder for the company, announced a £510 million merger with rival KBB. Robert Miller, director of retail research at Kleinwort Benson, said the deal greatly diminishes the chances of a rival bid.

Commentary, page 29

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# Tobacco firms seek release of cigarette papers

FROM OLIVER AUGUST  
IN NEW YORK

BROWN & WILLIAMSON, the BAT subsidiary, and three other US tobacco companies are pressing a judge in their billion-dollar legal battle with US authorities to release 33 million pages of their internal documents.

The papers are known to include damaging and sensitive information, some of which has leaked out in recent weeks. By releasing the documents together, the tobacco companies want to stop the drip feed of stories about targeting teenagers and cheating on nicotine

levels. The \$368.5 billion (£219 billion) settlement that would give the companies immunity from class action suits is still awaiting congressional approval.

Hubert Humphrey III, the attorney-general of Minnesota, where the documents are held, said: "Unfortunately, it's just another public relations play by this outlaw industry that is desperately seeking immunity from Congress."

The companies are also asking the judge to open to the public the warehouse in which the documents are held. The four companies promised to pay any extra costs.

BAT, a defendant in its own right, has

declined to join the effort to release the documents.

The latest piece of confidential information emerging from the documents concerns the so-called "secret of Marlboro". The Philip Morris brand established its market dominance in the mid-1970s, much to the astonishment of its rivals. David Bernick, a Brown & Williamson lawyer, said: "We couldn't figure out why Marlboro sales were taking off."

Brown & Williamson took more than a decade to find out that Marlboro sales were powered by the addition of ammonia to the tobacco. A 1989 Brown & Williamson document

in the Minnesota warehouse states: "The secret of Marlboro is ammonia."

Mr Bernick has played down suggestions that the main reason for adding ammonia is to boost nicotine levels to keep smokers hooked. He has played up the industry's position that ammonia results in a better-tasting, smoother smoke. "Where do the companies compete?" he asked. "They compete for that great-tasting cigarette that people will like."

Ammonia apparently reacts with sugars in the tobacco to give Marlboro a "roasty, toasty" flavour — one reason other companies pursued the technology.

## Investors may sue for Astec payout

BY MARTIN BARROW

TWO institutional investors in Astec (BSR) are considering legal action against Emerson Electric, Astec's controlling shareholder, which is trying to remove independent executive directors from the board and to block dividend payments.

Electra Fleming and Royal Sun Alliance are considering issuing proceedings against Emerson under section 459 of the Companies Act, which allows a shareholder to complain to the High Court when it is believed the company's affairs are being conducted to the detriment of other shareholders.

A total of 18 institutions, speaking for about 25 per cent of Astec, have protested against the move by Emerson, an American company which owns 51 per cent of Astec. Emerson has said it will pay 11p a share for the shares it does not already own.

The shares rose 2p to 126p yesterday after Astec, which makes power converters for the computer and telecommunications industries, reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £37.2 million from £33.9 million for the year to December 31. Earnings rose to 9.41p a share from 8.55p.

Tempus, page 30



Institutional shareholders in revolt: Mike Arrowsmith, finance director of Astec, where pre-tax profits rose to £37m

## Utility regulators to face tighter controls

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

UTILITY regulators will face tighter controls on how they determine companies' profits in an effort to make their often controversial decisions more consistent.

The Government will set out a framework for regulators to work within in its Green Paper on utility regulation, which is due to be published at the end of this month.

The Green Paper that will confirm the widely tipped merger of the electricity and gas regulators, will aim to map out common methods for regulation, such as guidelines for calculating the cost of capital.

While this will be seen by some as tying the hands of the regulators, which are intended to be independent of Government, the Department of Trade and Industry will make clear that more consistency is needed in regulation. A more

coherent approach to regulation across the industries will be welcomed by the City and the companies which have often complained of idiosyncratic decision making among the regulators.

The styles of Stephen Littlechild, the electricity

watchdog, Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, and Ian Byatt, the water regulator, differ considerably and the Government is anxious to depersonalise the regulatory process.

Rows over pricing regimes between the companies and

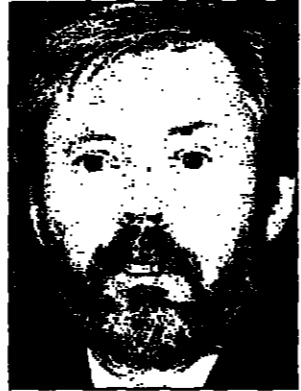
regulators have often descended into personal slanging matches and have led to uncertainty in the market.

But while the regulators are expected to be forced to make decisions more consistent and transparent they are also likely to be toughened future price reviews in the face of considerable profits earned by electricity and water companies. The City believes that companies will be hit hard by the next round of water and electricity distribution reviews.

The DTI is not expected to appoint either Professor Littlechild or Ms Spottiswoode to the role of super-regulator. It is thought that the job will be advertised as a new position as the Government moves quickly to fuse the two offices. Ms Spottiswoode's contract finishes at the end of this year. Professor Littlechild's ends next year.



Spottiswoode: public rows



Littlechild: controversial

### TOURIST RATES

Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.83	2.85
Belgium F	21.85	20.17
Canada \$	0.631	0.632
Cyprus Cyp	2.470	2.282
Denmark K	0.121	0.122
Finland Mk	11.88	10.88
France F	10.38	9.51
Germany Dm	3.13	2.88
Greece Dr	495	456
Hong Kong \$	15.48	12.28
Iceland K	130	110
Ireland P	1.23	1.15
Israel Sh	0.282	0.271
Italy Lit	3103	2886
Japan Yen	216.13	200.69
Malta	0.482	0.471
Netherlands Gld	3.529	3.234
New Zealand \$	2.95	2.71
Norway Kr	12.95	12.01
Portugal Esc	315.53	282.50
S Africa Rd	8.74	8.24
Spain Ptas	282.29	243.50
Sweden Kr	14.99	12.86
Switzerland F	2.54	2.32
Turkey Lira	370380	350482
USA \$	1.742	1.599

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

## Johnson Matthey doubles silver output

FROM OLIVER AUGUST  
IN NEW YORK

JOHNSON MATTHEY, the London metal refiner, has doubled silver production in recent weeks in response to a nine-year price high.

The company said: "It's not just us. There is an increase in silver refining around the world."

The price for an ounce of silver fell 3.5 per cent to \$6.85 yesterday after falling 6 per cent on Friday. Rising world-wide refinery output and a slowdown in underlying demand for the metal is calling into question the wisdom of Warren Buffett's \$1 billion silver investment. Mr Buffett started buying silver at \$4 per ounce in July, citing a shortage of silver.

John Fairley, an operations manager, said: "Silver is coming in from everywhere to be melted into bars. A combination of the high price and the high lease rate is causing everyone to try to get their silver into the market."

Johnson Matthey has extended working hours to run its plants around the clock and at weekends. Colin Griffith, head of precious metal trading at Standard Bank, said: "I don't think these prices are sustainable. There is a lot of metal that is sitting around in undeliverable form but is being refined so that it can be brought to market. There are producers who are happy to sell future production at well below current prices."

The biggest threat feared by traders sitting on large silver positions is that India, the largest silver importer, could become a net exporter.

Indian exports in the late 1970s undermined the attempt by the Hunt brothers to corner the silver market. Demand in India is already fading and scrap and silverware are being melted down for export.

In Bombay yesterday people were selling family silver to cash in on strong silver prices.

Tempus, page 30

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Shell wins approval for two gasfields

THE Government has granted approval to Shell UK Exploration and Production for the development of two new southern North Sea gasfields — Ketch and Corvette — at a cost of £233 million. Shell Expro is operator in the North Sea for the 50-50 joint venture between Shell and Esso Exploration and Production UK. Shell Expro said: "We're delighted to get the go-ahead for Ketch and Corvette, which form part of Shell and Esso's aim to invest £4 billion in the southern and central North Sea over the next five years."

Ketch and Corvette's combined peak flow... represents about 3 per cent of average UK total demand, strengthens security of supply and furthers our ambition to be an all-round energy provider in the next century." Ketch is located 100 miles east of the South Yorkshire coast and 12 miles east of the Shell/Esso Schooner field. The first gas is scheduled to flow in the fourth quarter of 1999. The £80 million Corvette field lies 50 miles north east of Bacton on the north Norfolk coast.

## Guardian IT flotation

THE flotation of Guardian IT next month will make millionaires out of seven directors and senior managers and value shares and options held by Peter MacLean, chief executive, at about £5 million. Guardian, the provider of emergency back-up computer systems, yesterday confirmed its plans to float. It will be valued at about £100 million. Guardian was formed in 1991 by ICL and Sherwood, and sold for £21 million in 1995 to a management buyout team.

## New role for Stevens

LORD STEVENS of Ludgate, chairman of United News & Media, has become chairman of Personal Number Company, which provides memorable telephone numbers and telecommunications services to business and private users. He succeeds John Peet who has resigned after his appointment as an executive consultant to a US corporation. Mr Peet remains a non-executive director of Personal Number. The shares rose 3 1/2 p to 4 1/2 p yesterday.

## Hyundai halts work

HYUNDAI the Korean electronics company, has suspended work at its new site in Dunfermline, Fife, for four months. The delay, which is expected to affect hundreds of jobs, has been caused by the financial turmoil in the Far East and could put the entire project at risk. Hyundai said: "The rescheduling of the affected work packages — for a period of up to four months — will take effect from later today and is a result of continuing economic difficulties in Korea."

## GTI sale considered

TELEMETRIX, the troubled electronic components group, said that a committee of investment bankers has been appointed to decide whether to sell GTI Corporation, its loss-making US subsidiary. The board of GTI has appointed Cowen & Co to consider a number of strategic possibilities. In 1996 GTI made an operating loss of about £5 million. Tim Curtis, chief executive of Telemetrix, said that he does not expect a decision to be made within the next few weeks.

## Test success lifts Ramco

SHARES in Ramco Energy jumped 27 1/2 p to 77 1/2 p yesterday after it announced that Medusa Oil and Gas, its subsidiary, had successfully completed the drilling and initial testing of its Krumvir 2 well in the Czech Republic. The well was drilled as part of a joint venture with MND, the recently privatised Czech oil and gas company. Steve Remp, chairman and chief executive of Ramco, said: "This discovery has given Ramco entry into a region where oil and gas discoveries can be quickly developed."

## Sericol inks £9m boost

BURMAH CASTROL'S chemicals arm is to spend £9 million on expanding Sericol, its screen printing inks business, by buying the screen division business of Sipa Australia and Serigrafia in Austria. Sericol is also to form subsidiaries in Poland and the Czech Republic. Lee Plushack, chief executive of Burmah's Screen Printing Inks, said: "The acquisitions add to those made in 1997 in Britain, Australia and the US, and will advance Sericol's worldwide leadership in the industry."

## Salvesen wins contract

SHARES in Christian Salvesen rose from 114 1/2 p to 118p after the transport group said it had won a £20 million contract to operate Ikea's first British distribution centre. The furniture group's new warehouse at Thrapston near Kettering, Northamptonshire, will serve eight British stores and service centres and is expected to become operational this autumn. Ikea plans further store openings in Britain. It has a total of 144 stores in 25 countries and says Britain is its fastest growing market.

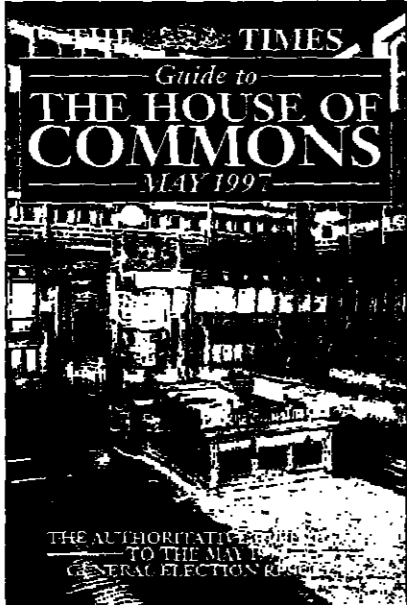
## Eurotherm buys in US

EUROTHERM, the controls and instruments group, is to buy Action Instruments, based in San Diego, California, for \$16 million (£9.8 million) subject to approval by the American anti-trust authorities. Action designs, makes and sells industrial signal conditioning products. Action sales for the year to end October were \$18.4 million and profit before tax \$1 million. The value of net assets to be acquired is \$5.3 million. Eurotherm shares fell 16 1/2 p to 357 1/2 p.

## Northamber shares slip

SHARES in Northamber, the computer assembly group, fell from 255p to 245 1/2 p after the group revealed a 14.5 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £4.26 million in the six months to December 31. Sales rose 8 per cent to £150 million, earnings rose from 7.9p to 8.4p and the half-year dividend doubled to 1.2p. David Phillips, the chairman, said: "These results were achieved despite the disappointment in pre-Christmas sales of the older technology PCs in the general UK retail marketplace."

## Who won what and why?



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## Allsport founders to pocket millions

BY JASON NISSÉ

TWO of Britain's best known sports photographers are to make about £4.4 million from the sale of Allsport, the photographic agency, by Getty Communications.

Steve Powell, who was one of the three founders of the agency in the 1970s, will make nearly £15 million, while Adrian Murrell, the cricket photographer who is now Allsport's UK managing director, is to make about £4.4 million from the sale. Six other directors will share about £10 million from the deal.

However, the two other founders of Allsport — John Starr and Tony Duffy — both left the agency while it was being built up and sold their

shares for much less than the price secured from Getty. Mr Duffy, who had been building up the firm's presence in the US, sold his 40 per cent stake in 1995 for a fraction of the price it was worth yesterday.

Getty is paying £16.5 million in cash and £12.9 million in shares for the business, which had a turnover of £10 million and pre-tax profits of £1.5 million last year.

Allsport is one of the leading sports photography agencies. It supplies images to most of the leading newspapers in the world. Mr Powell is currently in Nagano, Japan, co-ordinating the media coverage of the Winter Olympics, where Allsport has 45 staff and 25 freelance photographers.

## Storm damage bill of £300m

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

Insurers estimated the total cost of the storms at the end of last year could be as high as £300 million.

Profits for the insurance industry as a whole in 1997 are likely to be volatile.

When GRE announced its purchase of PPP healthcare group last December it said trading conditions in the UK were tough, particularly among large commercial property losses and these would be reflected in the 1997 figures.

GRE, Commercial Union and Prudential will report 1997 results on February 25, and RSA on March 5.

CU has not given details of storm losses but they are not thought to be as high as RSA's.

## Pierre Victoire placed on the menu at £15m

BY JASON NISSÉ

PIERRE VICTOIRE, the restaurant chain which has twice pulled plans to float on AIM, has been put up for sale with a price tag of about £15 million.

Rutherford Manson Dows, the Scottish accountancy firm, has been given the sale mandate. The operation, which has more than 130 outlets across the UK and Europe, was founded ten years ago by Pierre LeVicky, the French chef who is still the largest shareholder.

However, a series of financial setbacks and a row with franchisees have dampened

plans to float the group. The management team has been strengthened with the appointment of Bryan Rankin, a leading accountant, as chairman and a change of auditors.

This has not stopped the group from running into controversy. Nearly £1 million was lent to a company controlled by M LeVicky and used to renovate a French farmhouse. Pierre Victoire nearly collapsed in the early 1990s, but M LeVicky is now looking for someone to take control and back plans to expand the chain to 300 outlets.



LeVicky: largest shareholder

## Sale completes NatWest withdrawal from equities

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

NATWEST BANK yesterday completed its withdrawal from the equities market with the sale of its Australasian businesses to Salomon Smith Barney, the US investment banking group.

Salomon said it had agreed to pay \$130 million (£52 million) for County NatWest's Australian and New Zealand operations, including corporate finance, equities and parts of the financial markets division.

The price represents a small premium to the net assets sold and contains an element

linked to future profits. The deal is expected to be completed by the end of the current quarter.

About 400 staff will transfer from County NatWest to the new combined operations of Salomon Smith Barney Australia, leaving 40 employees in the financial markets division.

The deal comes after a strategic decision by NatWest to pull-out of global equities. In December it sold its UK and European equities and derivatives operations to Bankers Trust and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell for £179

million. Salomon, owned by Travelers, the US financial services group, said that the acquisition brought to its fold Australia's top-ranked equities brokerage house and a team of highly rated research analysts.

Robert Morse, chief executive officer of Salomon Smith Barney Asia Pacific, said: "Australia and New Zealand represented important markets in the global securities business. Peter St George, County NatWest's former CEO, will head the combined Salomon operation."

# LCR plans go down the Tube



## COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

John Prescott's brief is full of hard choices. None are easier than the options presented by the failure of London & Continental Railways to fund its promised high-speed rail link to the Continent.

The easy option is allowing LCR's assets, which include track, yard, station properties and the Eurostar service, to fold back into the public sector. But that solves nothing. Gordon Brown will not finance the link.

Railtrack looks to be the only organisation that can salvage something from the mess, even if Virgin and Bechtel, two of LCR's shamed shareholders, are still hoping to prosper on the new principal's back. In answering the call, however, Railtrack faces two problems.

LCR's failure confirmed the conviction of many others that the project was uneconomic, even allowing for the huge cash and asset subsidies the Tory Government agreed to. And Railtrack has other priorities. Number one is to extend the business it knows by taking over and refurbishing the infrastructure of London Underground, preferably in one lot. That is one of Mr Prescott's priorities too.

If Railtrack does not win a good chunk of the Underground, it will not feel anxious to help out Mr Prescott on the high speed link. If it does, it will worry about being financially overstretched by a double commitment.

The sensible answer, as sug-

gested here, is to scale the project down. Much of the benefit in terms of time and convenience can be won at much lower cost. For Mr Prescott, however, this could be painful. He wants to put as much freight on to rail as possible and to link the Channel Tunnel better to the North. Very much of the avoidable cost is on the urban and cross-Thames tunnels needed for the fancy freight and passenger terminals in northeast London that make this transport gain possible.

Railtrack can "envisage" a scaled-down £1.3 billion project that would speed passengers from London to Paris nearly as fast as LCR and Eurotunnel, its biggest customer, were banking on. But that would keep the passenger station at Waterloo, in South London, and terminate freight in north Kent. That would not fulfil Mr Prescott's dream of through-freight, but would at least be convenient for transfers from the M25.

Unfortunately, common sense carries little weight in Brussels. The scaled-down version, which LCR would have loved, is not in the legislation. The EU, spurred by continental contractors, might be able to force Mr Prescott to go back to the drawing board, or at

least to a new open tender. The classic eurobridge would be for Mr Prescott to pretend that the scaled-down project is stage one of the grand design and to offer some hapless group, such as UK fishermen or consumers, as a compensating sacrifice.

### Cuckoo! I hear a windfall

It had to come. Like the first cuckoo of spring, the first flicker of concern about the growth prospects of the "new" banks — that's the former building societies to you and me — has arrived. However such is the environment that has seen the likes of Halifax and Northern Rock outperform almost every-

one in their short lives as public companies, that the warning from Salomon Smith Barney is sugar-coated with suggestions that Halifax, Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester could return £1.7 million to shareholders this year. John Leonard and the wonderfully named Ronit Ghose at Salomon argue that the new banks have much more capital than they could ever need to fulfil their statutory requirements. After all the lion's share of their business comes from mortgage lending — which, barring an economic meltdown of Indonesian proportions, is a rather secure way of making money. So, as long as the Halifax does not decide it wants to start financing Latin American economic growth or tunnelling for railways, it can work with quite low capital ratios.

This argument is a simplified version of that used by the old banks — NatWest and Barclays — to justify their share buybacks

a couple of years ago. Then shareholders lapped up the prospect, because they realised that if the clearing banks did not have the spare capital, they could not waste money buying banks in New England or lending to Mexico or financing Eurotunnel. The prospect of another cash windfall for the millions of small investors who have found their family finances transformed by the demutualisation derby is mouthwatering. But it will do little for the earnings of the new banks concerned or indeed their share prices. The mechanism for handing this money out to shareholders is quite likely to either be bad for the tax position of the man in the street or structured in a way that alienates institutional investors. However it may mask the worry that the actual flow of business coming to the new banks could be drying up. They all enjoyed a flood of deposits ahead of demutualisation — but

if you had £1,000 to spare today you are more likely to put it in a Saffway savings account paying 7.3 per cent interest rather than Halifax Liquid Gold paying somewhat less.

Although some say share buybacks are the last resort of a management without imagination, it is a better prospect than overpaying for a life assurer.

### Flemings a victim of circumstances

Recently the venerable merchant bank, Robert Fleming, purchased large amounts of advertising space to publicise its "global capability" in completing transactions for clients. Flemings highlighted the flotation of Billiton, the mining group that leapt straight into the FTSE 100 last year. But investors will not thank Flemings for the float, as the shares have fallen nearly 40 per cent, thanks to the collapse of commodity prices. Of course, Flemings would say that Billiton has been a victim of circumstances beyond its control. But that comment could just as easily be applied to Flemings itself. A couple of years ago everyone thought Flemings was

brilliantly placed to exploit the booming "tiger" economies through its joint venture, Jardine Fleming. Now these tigers are in retreat, Fleming is wondering where its growth is coming from. In fund management, Flemings is no longer the force it was and Save & Prosper, its retail brand, is looking lacklustre. The London corporate finance operation cannot decide whether it wants to take on the big boys, or dine well on their scraps, à la Close Brothers. And with Jardine Fleming it is also caught between two stools. If you have faith in the Far East, now would be the time to strike. To raise the money to buy Jardine Matheson's stake, Flemings would need to raise capital from outside its existing shareholder base. The best way to do this would be a flotation, but that is not something Flemings is ready to countenance at the moment.

### Bargain at Argos

PAYING £580,000 to Stuart Rose for what could be just 60 days' work seems a little rich. But Argos would be dead in the water trying to fight an aggressive takeover bid without a chief executive. Rose may not have enjoyed a brilliant reputation at Burton, but if the only thing he achieves is to persuade GUS to pay 2.5p a share more than it was going to offer, then Argos shareholders will have made a £137,000 profit on the deal.

# Pearson chalks up £135m profit with sale of SES stake

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

PEARSON, the media and information group, yesterday realised a book profit of more than £135 million by selling its stake in SES, the Luxembourg operator of the Astra satellite television system.

Pearson, which has embarked on a policy of selling minority stakes in businesses that it cannot control, sold its 7.6 per cent economic stake in SES for £160 million. The stake was on Pearson's books at £23 million and was the

result of an original £7 million investment in the satellite venture by Thames Television. Analysts have in recent months been valuing Pearson's SES stake in the region of £115 million. The sale values SES, whose main shareholders include Luxembourg financial institutions and Deutsche Telekom, at more than £2 billion.

From time to time the possibility of a flotation has been considered for SES but there is no sign of a date being set. SES, which broadcasts satellite television channels all over Europe, is tomorrow expected to unveil a new generation of satellites.

The sale of the SES stake demonstrates just how big a bargain Pearson got when it bought Thames Television, which had lost its broadcasting licence, from what was then Thorn EMI for £100 million in 1993. The Thames Television production business and programme library are still part of Pearson Television.

Greg Dyke, the chairman and chief executive of Pearson Television, said yesterday that the sale "was in line with our strategy of disposing of passive broadcasting investments which do not offer any real advantage to our actively managed production and distribution business".

The deal takes to £295 million the amount raised by Pearson over the past year through the disposal of minority broadcasting stakes. Last February Pearson sold its stake in TVB, the Hong Kong broadcaster, for £111 million. Then, in June, it sold part of its stake in Flextech, the cable and satellite channel provider, for £24 million.

In October Pearson expanded in the US production market with a £373 million all-share acquisition of All American Communications, producers of game shows and popular dramas such as Baywatch.

Redundancies are expected at All American's Los Angeles operations to reduce overheads. However, Pearson insists that it remains committed to production at All American.

Pearson shares fell 5p yesterday to 820p in a falling market. Last year Marjorie Scardino, the Pearson chief executive, set herself the target of doubling the value of the company within five years.



David Page, the PizzaExpress chairman, at the Wimbledon outlet. The company yesterday served up a 49 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits

# PizzaExpress puts overseas expansion on the menu

PIZZAEXPRESS, the high street restaurant chain, will shortly be opening its doors in Moscow, Paris and Cairo, and within five years expects to have as many restaurants overseas as it does in the UK (Dominic Walsh writes).

Franchised units have opened recently in Cyprus, Delhi and Meribel in the French Alps, and sites have been identified in Istanbul and Abu Dhabi. David Page, chairman, said: "France alone could bear a similar number of units to the UK. Overseas

expansion will gradually accelerate to overtake the UK within five or six years."

He said the group's overseas expansion would follow the same path as in the UK. Initial development would be through franchising, but once the restaurants were estab-

lished PizzaExpress would seek to take a majority stake in the franchisee company or buy it out.

Mr Page was speaking as he unveiled a 49 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £9.4 million in the second half of 1997, from turnover 55 per

cent higher at £47.6 million. Earnings per share were up 41 per cent to 10.7p and an interim dividend of 1.05p (0.85p) will be paid on April 6.

The figures were boosted by a full contribution from the 32 franchised restaurants acquired in the second half of

1996 and the opening of 15 new restaurants in the UK. The chain has more than 150 restaurants, of which just eight are franchises, and it continues to expand at the rate of about 30 a year. Like-for-like sales in restaurants open for more than 18 months were 10 per cent ahead, although margins were held back by a £330,000 investment in staff and management to cope with the group's rapid expansion.

Tempus, page 30

# Foster's ahead 17% in spite of losses in Asia

By Kathy Lepari

FOSTER'S Brewing Group, the Australian brewer, lifted pre-tax profit 17.1 per cent to \$428.3 million (£116 million) in the six months to December 31, in spite of losses incurred in Asia.

Losses in Asia deepened to \$52.6 million, more than double the \$10.2 million loss recorded in the first half last time.

Foster's net profit of \$167.8 million for the period was lower than the previous corresponding

half's \$169.4 million but was much better than analysts' expectations of about \$150 million. The group's tax bill also jumped significantly from \$11 million to \$58 million.

Ted Kunkel, chief executive, said the result was a good one with its Mildara Bass wine business recording a 55.7 per cent rise in earnings before interest and tax to \$52 million.

Carlton United Breweries, Foster's Australian and New Zealand division, increased its share of the beer market to 55.8 per cent from 54.9 per cent and raised pre-tax earnings 15.8 per cent to \$217.1 million. Mr Kunkel did not expect the group's performance in Asia to worsen in the second half.

Foster's sales were 15.3 per cent stronger at \$1.58 billion and earnings per share increased 11 per cent to 9.6 cents per share. The interim dividend is five cents a share fully franked (tax paid) compared with an unfranked dividend of five cents last time.



Kunkel: not pessimistic

# Reuters to stay silent on Grand Jury investigation

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

REUTERS, the news and information group, will today resist pressure to say more about the Grand Jury investigation that the company is facing in the US, as it unveils its 1997 results.

The company believes that it has already said what it feels it is legally able to while the investigation continues into alleged improper use of proprietary Bloomberg information by its US subsidiary, Reuters Analytics.

Reuters is expected today to announce its first decline in earnings since the organis-

ation became a public company. The UK group has been hit by economic troubles in the Far East and by the strength of the pound. Analysts expect the full-year results to show pre-tax profits in the £675 million to £690 million range.

The company will be providing an update on the performance of its 3000 services, the likely cost of dealing with the millennium bug and the effects of the launch of the euro on currency dealings.

All the signs are that the millennium bug will be a manageable problem for Reuters, largely because so many of the company's machines are being modernised all the time in the normal course of business. Next week Reuters will also return £1.5 billion in cash to shareholders through an offer of £13.60 in cash and 13 new shares for every 15 currently held.

Last week Reuters sought to limit the scale of the potential damage of the US Grand Jury investigation by saying it did not believe the allegations involved breaking into the Bloomberg central computer and acquiring lines of code.

# Sell-out crowds fail to lift Celtic

By Jason Nispe

CELTIC, the Scottish Premiership football club, paid the price of success in the first half of this financial year, with operating profits falling in spite of a higher turnover.

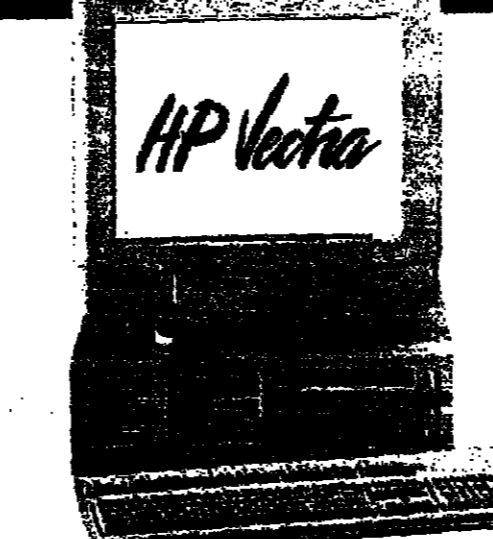
The Glasgow team has been enjoying sell-out crowds in the wake of winning the Scottish Coca-Cola cup. This meant turnover rose 24 per cent to £15.5 million in the six months to December 31, but higher payments to players and an expansion of the footballing squad meant profits from operations fell 4 per cent to £3.54 million.

This strengthening of the squad actually had a positive effect on the pre-tax profits because — in spite of spending £12 million on players — the group made £6.8 million on the transfer market. Taxable profits rose from £2.07 million to £7.74 million, earnings per share jumped from £6.23 to £25.36. There is no dividend.

Fergus McCann, the club's chairman, said new investments, such as its superstore, and the expanded South West Stand, plus the start of an independent Premiership in Scotland, will cement the group's financial improvements.

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STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK
Stock Market Writer
of the Year

FTSE surge peters out
as investors await data

IT WAS a day of consolidation for investors on the London stock market that brought to a halt a breathtaking run that has swept share prices almost 9 per cent higher in the past two weeks.

The equity market saw an early lead wiped out with prices continuing to drift throughout the afternoon as investors kept a wary eye on events in New York, where the Dow Jones industrial average opened lower.

Even so, the FTSE 100 index closed above its worst of the day. Down almost 40 points at one stage, it finished 28.8 lower at 5,600.9. Turnover was a modest 787 million shares.

Dealers said investors were waiting to see the outcome of today's retail prices figures before committing themselves to opening fresh positions. There is still plenty of money waiting to find its way into the market and this combined with any fresh corporate activity should continue to underpin sentiment.

Speculative buying lifted Sponsa 6p to 199p on turnover of 1.25 million shares. Last month the price hit a low of 167 1/2p, leaving the company vulnerable to a bid.

Cable & Wireless stood out with a jump of 19p to 632p as speculation about rival British Telecom reviving merger talks began being the rounds. BT, 2p firmer at 565p, was being linked with a number of partners over the weekend but as Lehman Brothers concluded last week there appears to be no clear strategy. Other brokers say it is still in need of a global partner.

The composite insurers were running for cover after Royal & Sun Alliance came out with storm losses totalling £52 million. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, reckons we have seen the best of the general insurers for the time being. Commercial Union fell 15p to £10.25. General Accident 33p to £12.85. Guardian Royal Exchange 15p to 392p and Royal & Sun 1p to 685p.

Kingfisher, where Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy is chief executive, briefly breached the £10 level for the first time, touching £10.16 before closing 8p better at 995p. Brokers said the shares had been marked higher along with other retailers in anticipation of a positive January report from the British Retail Consortium. Analysts have been particularly



Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy saw Kingfisher breach the £10 level

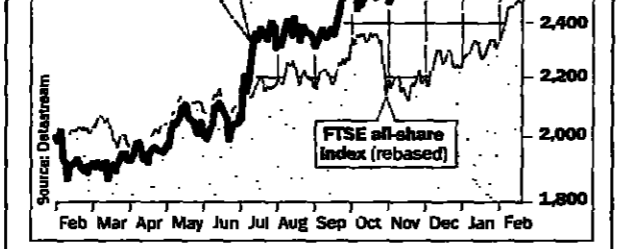
encouraged by the performance of Kingfisher's B&Q DIY business which is reckoned to have traded well over the Christmas period.

Meanwhile, last week's £1.6 billion bid by Great Universal Stores, 2p weaker at 750p, for Focus, 7p higher at 620p, has focused attention on the value of other companies in the sector. Heals rose 4p to 171 1/2p. Dixons 7 1/2p to 509 1/2p. Boots

12p to 905p. DFS Furniture 3 1/2p to 534p. Hamleys 7p to 248 1/2p and Next 10 1/2p to 780p.

Body Shop continued to bump along the bottom shedding 1 1/2p to 123p as Steen Kanter stepped down as chief executive of the group's US subsidiary. Dealers say the retailer is in danger of losing its place as a constituent of the FTSE 250.

One of the biggest falls on



PAST SELL-BY DATE

FOOD retailers were licking their wounds after several brokers turned bearish of the sector. Henderson Crosthwaite drew a red pencil across the board telling clients that the main players in the sector were overvalued.

Those coming under the hammer included Asda, 9 1/2p down to 194p. J Sainsbury, 16p to 468p. Tesco, 6p to 517p. Somerfield, 3 1/2p to 252 1/2p and Wm Morrison Supermarkets, 5p to 255 1/2p. Safeway resisted the trend adding 2 1/2p to 379p. Asda was also hit by

the day among blue chips was British Energy, down 2 1/2p to 438p. Salomon Smith Barney, the US securities house, maintains the shares are overvalued. It has put a target price on the shares of 429p.

Northern Ireland Electricity has now changed its name to Viridian. The shares finished 4 1/2p cheaper at 564p.

Some positive comments from HSBC James Capel, the broker, lifted Bank of Scotland 5 1/2p to 675p, while Lloyds TSB was down 2 1/2p to 857 1/2p on Friday's results on Friday. NatWest Markets, the broker, is forecasting an increase in pre-tax profits from £2.5 billion to £3 billion. HSBC also advanced 1 3/4p to £16.70, reflecting another positive performance for financial markets in Asia overnight.

Mears Group, which is listed on the AIM, held steady at 12p as Michael Hurd chucked in the towel as managing director and unloaded 9.2 million shares at 10 1/4p with various institutions. The group's US subsidiary continues to hold 5.8 million shares, or 15.6 per cent.

A clutch of "buy" recommendations failed to make much impression on Lascas, down 3p to 262p. Morgan Stanley, Merrill Lynch, and Dresner Kleinwort Benson are all pushing the shares to clients.

There was a positive response to first-time dealings in Euroserv Energy. Shares in the oil industry services group were placed by T Hoare, the broker, at 100p and opened at 102 1/2p. They later closed at 105 1/2p, a premium of 2p.

GILT-EDGED: Bond prices failed to consolidate their early lead achieved on the back of some better than expected producer price numbers.

A wobbly start by US treasury bonds put paid to any hopes that the London market could consolidate its position. In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt closed 19p lower at £121 1/2, in modest trading that saw just 26,000 contracts completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 was unchanged at £123 1/2 as was Treasury 7 1/2 per cent 2007 at £108 1/2.

NEW YORK: Shares drifted lower on a lack of fresh economic news. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 15.69 points to 8,173.80.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 8173.80 (-15.69) S&P Composite 1008.48 (-3.98)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 17205.00 (+164.94)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 10873.15 (+387.39)

Amsterdam: AEX Index 973.97 (+1.98)

Sydney: All Ordinaries 2683.3 (+20.2)

Frankfurt: DAX 4563.53 (+67.22)

Singapore: Straits Times 1543.72 (+6.81)

Brussels: CAC 40 15449.33 (+97.71)

Paris: CAC 40 3220.94 (+4.28)

Zurich: SMI 1352.00 (+0.73)

London: FTSE 100 5600.9 (-28.8) FTSE 250 4978.3 (-7.9) FTSE 350 2694.8 (-10.5) FTSE 100 Index 249.88 (+0.2) FTSE All-Share 2602.77 (+4.16) FTSE Non Financials 2570.50 (-5.54) FTSE Food Interest 137.09 (+0.16) FTSE Govt Secs 102.84 (+0.04) Bergantine 94.1

SEAO Volume 787.2M GBP 1.54M (+0.016) German Mark 3.939 (+0.0034) Exchange Index 104.2 (-0.2) Bank of England official close 620.1

ESDRI 1.2145 RPT 160.0 Dec (0.6%) Jan 1997-100 RPIX 158.3 Dec (2.7%) Jan 1997-100

RECENT ISSUES

Abbey Natl Dublin II 97% Athlone Extrusions 92 ... 5

Bass B 510 Euroserv Energy 102 ... 35% General Inds 140% ... 140%

Marichopol 170p (+7p) Razorback Vehicles 102 1/2 ... 60%

Richardson Group 60% Sanctuary Warrants 6 ... 1

Derwent Vly n/p (500) 40% ... 1 Pentec Eng n/p (185) 1 1/2 ... 1

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES: Moins 310p (+37p) Air London 245p (+27p) ... 655p (+42p) ... 170p (+7p) ... 170p (+9p) ... 220p (+11p) ... 165p (+8p) ... 211p (+10p) ... 640p (+27p) ... 170p (+7p) ... 215p (+8p) ... 275p (+27p) ... 453p (+16p) ... 267p (+9p) ... 1217p (+22p) ... 271p (+22p) ... 241p (+9p)

FALLS: British Energy 438p (-22p) Goldsmiths Group 255p (-10p) ... 245p (-16p) ... 392p (-16p) ... 1230p (-46p) ... 480p (-16p) ... 440p (-15p) ... 297p (-10p) ... 267p (-9p) ... 307p (-10p) ... 320p (-10p)

Closing Spread Page 33

TEMPUS

A question of savings

AIRLINES love to moan about the unpredictability of their business. Fuel costs, currency fluctuations, volatility in traffic and the depredations of discounting rivals make it almost impossible to forecast the outcome. It is difficult to argue airline profits must be the least defensible of any industry but British Airways added further confusion yesterday by revealing an extra £32 million of engine maintenance costs.

According to BA, the blame lies with late delivery of invoices by GE and improvements to their stable of RB-211 jet engines. Perhaps, but if the company cannot accurately budget its maintenance expenditure how can the market make even an educated stab at guessing BA's running overhead? Within the mainstream of plunging fuel costs and a spiralling pound, the outlook for BA is not too bad. The pound's strength is helping BA to coax tourists to the Far East, helping it to avoid a wholesale dumping of extra capacity on the North Atlantic routes. And BA's chief executive expresses hope that its American alliance will be allowed through the regulatory hoops in Brussels.

The big question is whether BA is achieving promised cost-savings of £1 billion by 2000. There are assurances but evidence is patchy. The deal with cabin crew means that new staff will cost less, saving £200 million in a full year. Add to that sub-contracting of services and new agreements on cargo handling and £600 million of annualised savings are in the bag already. But do not expect to see that in the bottom line. In the world of BA, £1 billion of cost-savings could be here today and gone tomorrow. There are safer bets.

PizzaExpress

WHEN Peter Botto wrote the PizzaExpress cookbook in 1972 he can scarcely have imagined that it would one day become a bible to an army of pizza makers knocking out more than ten million pizzas a year. Luke Johnson and Hugh Osmond turned a simple formula of pizzas and trendy interiors into one of the stock market's brightest stars, expanding it to more than 150 restaurants in the UK alone. While the basic formula remains intact, the recent decision of Messrs Johnson and Osmond to step down as executive directors has caused a few jitters.

Will the bubble burst? In particular, fears have been voiced over the cost of new sites in the face of an increasingly competitive environment where lease premiums

on the best sites are again becoming common. Like-for-like sales growth of 9 per cent for three-year-old restaurants and a 40 per cent return on capital in the second year should help to allay fears, while the move into overseas franchising looks a good way to widen growth with limited exposure. David Page, the new chairman, says the board structure is little different to that of the past five years - same roles, different titles. The imminent addition of two further non-executives will also be a comfort to the corporate governance police. The stock is by no means cheap, but Peter Botto's cookbook is unlikely to be remembered just yet.

lished annual figures give the lie to Emerson's claim. Yet in spite of the anger of City institutions at the way the US company has behaved, Emerson is in the driving seat. It may not secure the required acceptances to take over the company but it can otherwise dictate terms to minority shareholders. They may have their day in court but a prolonged legal battle can only damage the company.

The nightmare for investors is that Emerson should walk away, leaving the situation unresolved. Shareholders would do well to sell into the market now.

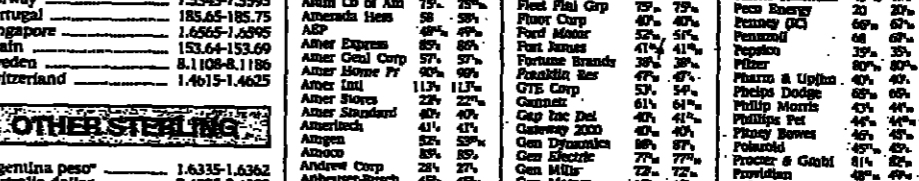
Silver FEW on this side of the pond may remember, but Paul Revere, the American revolutionary hero who rode to warn the minutemen of the arrival of British soldiers, was a silversmith. The bullion markets have more pressing matters to attend to than American history but they may

explain why silver has a large echo in the American subconscious than it does to the British. Americans still collect silver dollars, once common currency, and present them as gifts. So the behaviour of Warren Buffett who last week revealed that he had secured a fifth of world silver production and that of his unfortunate antecedents, Nelson and Bunker Hunt, may have an element of sentimentality about it.

Market sentiment is much less patriotic and the worry is that the silver price is being propped up by a frantic search for silver to deliver to Berkshire Hathaway, in the hope of satisfying Mr Buffett's purchases. Demand in the Far East is depressed and the price rise combined with collapsing currencies offers a good reason to dump silver. If Paul Revere were still in the saddle, he would be riding to warn America that the sellers are coming.

CARL MORTISHED

SAME PIZZAS, HIGHER RENTS



Pizza Express share price

COMMODITIES

Table with columns for Commodity, Unit, and Price. Includes items like Cocoa, Robusta Coffee, White Sugar, and Meat & Livestock Commission.

Table with columns for Commodity, Unit, and Price. Includes items like Crude Oil, Gas Oil, and Brent Oil.

Table with columns for Commodity, Unit, and Price. Includes items like Liffe Options and Liffe Futures.

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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table with columns for Contract, Period, and Price. Includes items like Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, and Japanese Govt Bond.

Table with columns for Contract, Period, and Price. Includes items like Three Mth Sterling, Three Mth Eurozone, and Three Mth ECU.

Table with columns for Contract, Period, and Price. Includes items like FIVE 100 and FIVE 200.

Table with columns for Contract, Period, and Price. Includes items like Base Rates Clearing Banks, Discount Market Leases, and Treasury Bills.

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OTHER LISTINGS

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# Style counsel points to jam tomorrow

Such has been the flood of celebrities into Downing Street since the election that you could be forgiven for believing that the Government was attempting to recreate Hollywood in SW1. Tony Blair has paraded with Oasis, Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, has signed up Lord Putnam, Paul Smith, the fashion designer, and the ubiquitous Richard Branson to sit on a creative industries task force.

Superficially Labour's wooing of the Soho set looks little more than an exercise in public relations. The Government has been as keen as any teenage groupie to be seen hanging out with pop stars and artists, hoping that some of the star qualities rub off on the Administration. The pub-

## THE BUSINESS OF POLITICS



ALASDAIR MURRAY

lic seems expected to suspend its disbelief at the sight of middle-aged politicians trying to show that they are abreast of the latest "yout" culture. Labour likes to argue its courting of the stars is part of its attempt to "rebrand" Britain. The Government has taken to trumpeting Britain's strength in music, design and new media, and playing down its "heritage" aspects, rather as if it is writing one of those lists of new year "ins and outs".

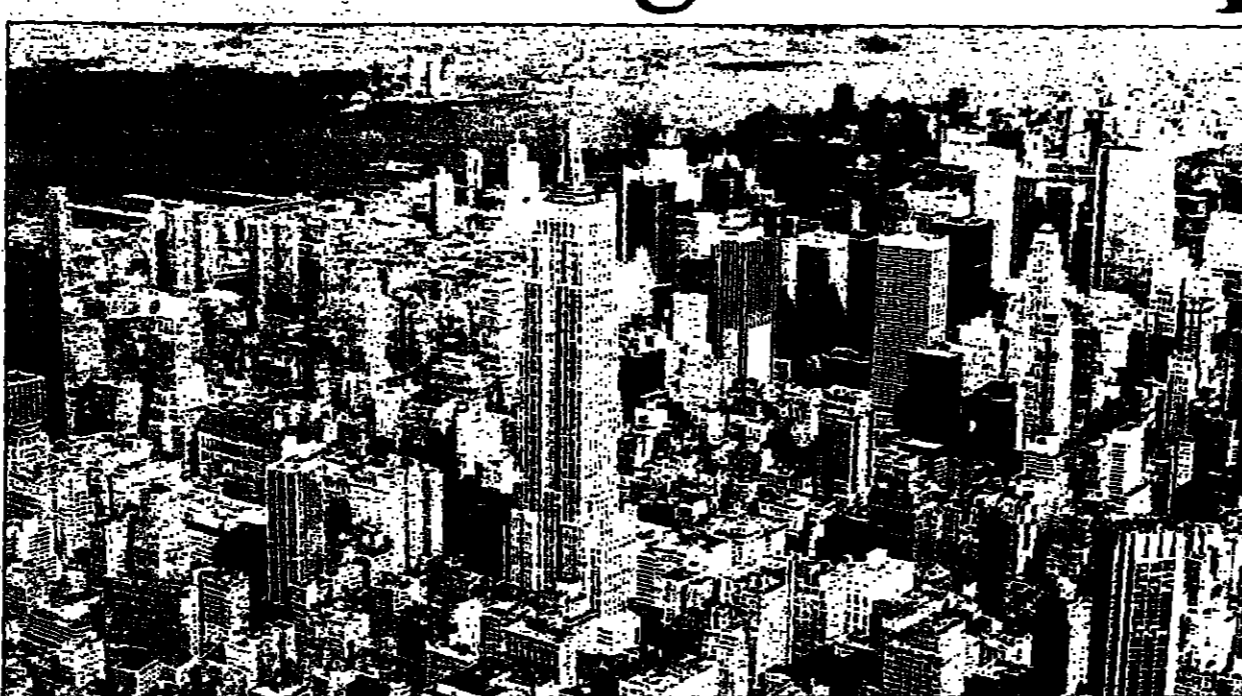
These from the creative industries committee and slashed the Arts Council budget - offending many longstanding supporters in the process. The creative industries task force has an economic not a cultural mandate. Mr Smith

is trying to construct the first post-industrial industrial policy. The strong support for the creative industries is in total contrast to the hesitant approach to traditional industries - witness the rather uncertain handling of the coal crisis. A sector that was once close to the party's heart. Downing Street wants to be at the hub not of a new Hollywood, but of a British Silicon Valley.

money but practical help in improving training, education and access to private finance. "We are discussing ways of improving the education system and if anything can be done to enable small companies to benefit from venture capital," he explains. "We want to discover why multi-media start-ups perform much better in the US."

# Surveying outlook sees firms look west in fight for capital

The profession is undergoing upheaval and polarisation, says Carl Mortished



Looking to America: from left, Andrew Huntley, Chris Peacock and Chris Bartram have noted the transatlantic trend

Walk into one of the big surveying firms in Mayfair and ask the first agent you meet what his business is all about. In the old days the answer would have been "location". Today if you ask the same question the response is likely to be "money" - or to be precise "capital".

An equally frequent response might well be "haven't a clue". The turmoil that is hitting this industry with incorporation, restructurings, mergers and alliances is changing this once-cozy fraternity beyond recognition. Once upon a time you could meet all the people who mattered in the property industry within a few acres of prime real estate in the West End.

Today the borders don't just extend to the City of London but include America and Europe and points beyond. By the end of the century, the top five or six surveying firms could well be under foreign ownership or linked by financial support to overseas companies. These in turn could become targets of financial service giants looking for more income. Richard Ellis has torn itself asunder in search of the financial backers that it reckons to need to keep pace with international clients. Savills has thrown its lot in with First Pacific, the Hong Kong conglomerate, and Jones Lang Wootton is abandoning partnership and looking for its own sugar daddy, probably in America.

Kolli Real Estate, Grinley GVA plans an eventual stock market listing to underpin its worldwide expansion. The surveying firms say they are being driven by what their clients want. The fashion is to follow your clients (read: follow the money) round the world. Like the accountants, surveyors want to offer a one-stop shop to large funds or property companies, in particular advising big US pension funds on their property investments in Europe. That means acquiring foreign businesses, hence the rush to incorporate and use shares as a bargaining tool.

But corporate deals form only part of the strategy. The new-style surveyors don't just broke deals, they put their own money in the pot. It is the push

towards co-investment alongside clients that arouses controversy and played a large part in splitting the Richard Ellis organisation in two. Andrew Huntley, chairman of Richard Ellis UK is convinced that financial services point the way forward. "We put the accent on co-investment, corporate deals and securitisation. Richard Ellis International are more traditionally driven."

The split means that the former partners could end up at daggers drawn in some foreign field, both carrying shields bearing the Richard Ellis name. Insignia, the \$750 million (£450 million) New York firm, is taking over Richard Ellis UK for £50 million, while CB Commercial, a Californian rival, is to take over RE's 54 international offices. Mr Huntley admits that the split has caused no small heartache: "It has been a very difficult time. But he is convinced that co-investment is key to the future and pointed to the sale of the DSS property portfolio as an example of the way things could go."

ly, a flotation of the business. Not everyone is enamoured with the co-investment strategy which can create unease among clients. Some would prefer that their advisers remain independent professionals, rather than investment bedfellows. Chris Bartram, who runs the UK arm of Rodamco, the huge Dutch property fund, questioned whether surveyors had the muscle to engage in meaningful co-investment and cautioned against the danger of putting the interests of some clients ahead of others. "If you have clients, you have an equal duty of care to all of them. Why would you have a capital partner who is also giving you advice?"

However, Mr Bartram indicated that in fund management some co-investment may be necessary. Rodamco recently acquired RREEF, the sixth-biggest US property fund manager, and secured an advisory role on a \$500 million CalPERS fund where he indicated the co-investment requirement was "significantly less than 5 per cent."

These conflicts are not new to the wheeling and dealing Mayfair property agents. Milner Estates, which was formerly Conrad Ritblat, the surveying firm, is well on the way to becoming a medium-sized property company, while FPD Savills is already taking stakes in buildings via an in-house property fund. But the transatlantic deal-making suggests more going on than just opportunistic trading.

For firms like JLV to contemplate mergers with big American corporates involves contemplating the ultimate corporate sacrifice. In the shifting sands of the US financial services industry it cannot be long before the predators themselves become the prey. In five years' time commercial property advice in Britain will probably look very different. At the bottom, surveying partnerships will still profit, ducking and diving in small corners of the market. But at the top the big players could well be divisions of large US investment banks competing with one or two US property firms. Mr Peacock sees little future for the rest: "The business will polarise more. The middle ground will be under pressure. They will have infrastructure costs, but they will not have the financial muscle to compete."

# Ship comes in

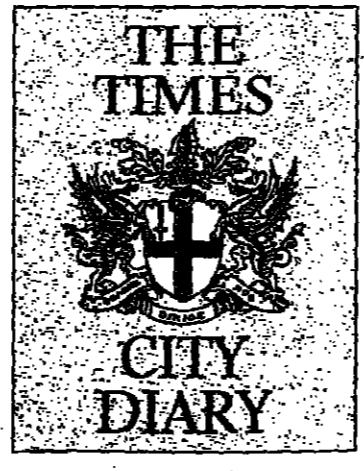
I HAVE here the investment opportunity of a lifetime. It could be a lifetime of penury, admittedly. Inter-Action, a children's charity, is selling HMS President, moored on the Thames off Victoria Embankment and, if you are heading into the City, just before you hit the hidden speed cameras under Blackfriars Bridge. (You do know about the hidden speed cameras under Blackfriars Bridge, don't you?) The ship was built in 1918, originally as a "Q" ship, or anti-submarine decoy. Christie & Co,

which is handling the sale, says it could convert into a restaurant and bar with an annual turnover of £450,000 a year. But it is impossible to say what the ship is worth, although the charity has put a hidden reserve on the sale - my guess is about £250,000, but don't take it from me. This is because the owners have to pay an annual licence fee to the Port of London Authority of about £15,000. Renewable each year. So how do you know that if your venture is a spectacular success, the Authority will not raise the fee? "You don't," says Paul Donoghue, of Christie, showing startling honesty for an estate agent.



All at sea: a change of use ahead for HMS President

AN invitation to SBC Warburg Dillon Read - surely, part of the name must drop off soon? - to discuss the privatisation of the Mexican Airport Authority. Two things are certain, even before I enquire further. They will be after some of your money, and somewhere at the bottom of it will be David Freud, that scion of the Freud dynasty who got a proper job in the City rather than electing to promote celebrity non-entities or write about their dysfunctional family. I last came across Freud when he was trying to sell me Vienna airport, but I recall Warburg's other successes include Eurotunnel, Euro Disney



land and the almost defunct London & Continental Railways. Not that this should put you off, of course.

What slump? RUMOURS of the demise of the London property market may be premature. David Goldstone, chairman of Regalian Properties, has just returned from a three-week promotional visit to Hong Kong and Singapore, timed to coincide with the Chinese New Year. The trip was planned last year and had therefore to be downplayed more than somewhat. Except that by the time Goldstone had left the Far East, he had sold £10 million-worth of flats at his Point West development, the

rebuild West London air terminal on Crownwell Road. Goldstone believes the property market has been over-generalising about the effect of the financial troubles in the Far East. Conditions are different in Hong Kong or Singapore from the worst-affected countries such as Indonesia or Thailand, and there is still cash rattling around in places. The development will be ready by the end of the year, and it seems buyers are taking a longer view. "What they were saying was that the turmoil is going to be over by then in any event." We shall see.

DAVID BROUGHAM is the British banker charged with knocking heads together in Indonesia, the most de-clawed of the former Asian tigers, we learn. The name rings a vague bell. Indeed, it is the same Brougham who was involved in the rescue of Brent Walker, George Walker's old leisure empire. As the man charged with breaking the news to Walker that his time on the board was up, "A bit evasive, he didn't like committing himself. Like most bankers," was one insider's recollection. And I would be evasive if I had been sent into the ring with George Walker.

Love of Mike YET more trouble for Mike Greenless, chairman of GGT Group, who has agreed a £143 million takeover by

Omnicom. Saatchi & Saatchi has poached Beverly Okuda and Keith Burnell from GGT's New York agency, Wells BDDP. These two were running the \$50 million account for Oil of Olay (as they call it in the US) which walked out of the door a few weeks ago. So let me get this right. Okuda and Burnell quarrelled with Frank Assumma. Now Assumma is suing Greenless and the rest of GGT. So the two left because they fell out with Assumma, who then fell out with Assumma, who then fell out with Assumma. A disputatious business, advertising. Just as well that Greenless enjoys leaving parties.

MARTIN WALLER



"We're saved! Pizza Express is opening a branch here"

## MARKETING

# The search for a brand new name

Perhaps one of the hardest tasks facing Jan Leschly and Sir Richard Sykes as they ponder the proposed merger between SmithKline Beecham and Glaxo Wellcome will be what to call this judgement of the pharmaceuticals industry. SmithKline Beecham Glaxo Wellcome is clearly out of the question. Either a couple of names will have to go or the identity consultants will have to devise a completely new name.

Before anything is decided, however, there will be lengthy discussions on the type of font used, the colour of the logo. Having been through the turmoil of mergers before, both companies take corporate identity very seriously. UK businesses spend about £150 million a year buying advice on how to brand themselves. The design agencies that dream up names such as Cordiant, Centrica and BA's new budget airline, Go!, are enjoying a boom, with financial services, pharmaceutical and IT sectors spearheading the growth.

Richard Watson, a partner at Global Design Register, which helps companies to find agencies, says the sector is growing for a number of reasons not least the current spate of mergers and acquisitions. "At the moment you've got a lot of chief executives, marketing and communications directors asking themselves: 'With the arrival of the new millennium, isn't it time for a change in our identity?'"

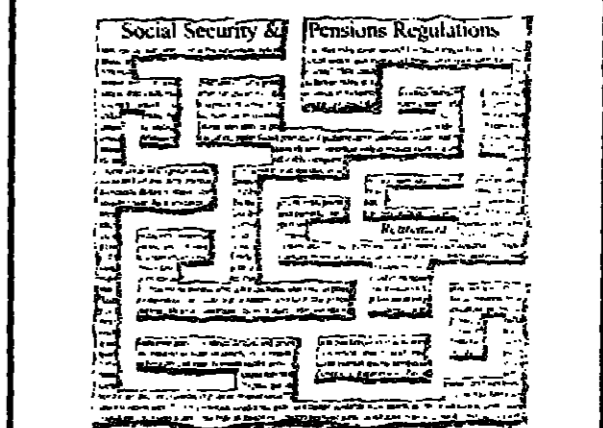
Of course you expect a bit of flak," says the head of media relations, Murray Loake. "But it's now a part of City life. We couldn't have called it Guinness; neither could we have named it Burger King because it wouldn't be correctly representing the whole story (of the company's operations)." To be fair, Diageo had to draw a line. It was forced to compromise and adopt a new identity, or risk offending either Guinness or GrandMet shareholders had it chosen a composite name. The adverse publicity Diageo encountered was, in part, caused by a perception within the business community that corporate identity is an overrated and expensive discipline.

One European bank, currently going through a merger, asked four London identity consultants to devise a name almost overnight for just £5,000 for a job normally expected to take 18 months and cost up to £500,000.

Tony Allen, managing director of Interbrand Newell & Sorrell, the design and identity consultant, worked on the identity borne out of

JULIAN LEE

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Mikimoto advertisement featuring a pearl necklace and the text 'SIMPLY SUBLIME Cultured pearls with diamond earrings in 18ct gold from £1,600'.

Vertical text on the left margin: 'Mi we un go da the wc...'

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# The boys get into a Viennese whirl

**Donald Hutera meets the six members of an all-male troupe with a silly name and a new show**

On a chill January afternoon, six lads in sweatpants are confined to a large room near London Bridge. Some stand in frozen isolation, heads tilted, arms bent and fingers spiderishly splayed. Others swat the air, clutch one another with twisted tenderness, then lurch away. Each casts out a disturbingly intense gaze, as if acutely aware of an imaginary audience.

Despite the bizarre behaviour, this strangely moving sextet aren't care in the community candidates. Rather, they are members of Lea Anderson's all-male contemporary dance group, the Featherstonehaughs (pronounced Fanshawhs), working on the timing of their new show.

The company has gained a loyal following for its playful and sensitive reinvention of men in dance. The Featherstonehaughs Draw on the Sketch Books of Egon Schiele is their tenth-anniversary production and, because of the vagaries of funding, their first in three years. Anderson claims it is one of the hardest things she has ever done.

"It's so unmanageable," she wails, huddled in the rehearsal studio, stopwatch in hand. "But I wanted to put myself in a different position, where I can't rely on models I've already used."

Unconventionality is a hallmark of Anderson's choreography, whether for the Featherstonehaughs or their equally quirky older "sisters", the all-female Cholmondeleys (Chumleez). Anyone familiar



Take three boys: one half of the Featherstonehaughs comprising (from left) newcomer Eddie Nixon, original team member Frank Bock, and long-serving Stephen Kirkham.

with either troupe knows better than to expect classical body shapes or pretty-pretty stage pictures from them. Instead, peculiarly precise patterns, swift oddball rhythms and dry, ironic wit are the order of the day.

Doubtless Anderson's creative background helped to determine her kinetic style. Before becoming a dance-maker, she was both band

singer and art school student. In the past, her magpie mentality has resulted in live and filmed pieces influenced by cinema, celebrity, magazine graphics, sports, ethnic dance, alchemy, weather and political identity.

This time round she has fused her unique aesthetic with that of the Viennese artist Egon Schiele. A contemporary of Freud, he was a prodigious-

ly talented self-dramatist with a painfully vulnerable, frankly erotic vision of humanity. His speciality was partially nude figures, wraith-like yet over-ripe, who seem caught in a sort of rapturous despair. Mannered and morbid, Schiele's once-notorious work ended in 1918 with his premature death from influenza, aged 28.

Stumbling across a reproduction of his many sketch-

books, Anderson felt an immediate kinship. She too is an inveterate notebook-keeper, regularly compiling volumes of ideas, drawings and found images. Beyond that, some of Schiele's sketches - particularly his little drawings of figures in processional-like boxes - strongly suggested choreography.

"What if these were the 'lost dances' of Egon Schiele?" Anderson remembers wondering. "Since he took such care and trouble to make them, the least I could do was transform them from the page to the stage."

In examining Schiele's art, what appealed most to Anderson was "the idea of expressed feeling on the outside of the body. There's such a rawness and sense of exposure in his work."

While the show is in no way meant to be interpreted as biography, Anderson recognises the impossibility of severing this particular artist from his art. "If you've got such a strong, stylised view of the world," she says, "everything you do is a self-portrait - even women and landscapes."

"I know everyone will assume I'm taking responsibility for portraying the essence of Schiele," she continues, "and I'm not. I just subjected his sketchbooks to my own rules. But every single position you'll see will have come from a painting or sketch of his."

How do the Featherstonehaughs view Schiele? "The show is inspired by the physicality of his work," Rem Lee says, "but it's not about him."

In the end, it's about us," adds Stephen Kirkham. Lee is compact, Kirkham sturdy. Their differences typify what it means to be one of Anderson's dancers. It has far more to do with individuality than traditional dance technique.

An adventure in Motion Pictures' Matthew Bourne was a founding member of the Featherstonehaughs. So was the late Carl Smith, who cited Sean Connery as his major dance influence. Of the current lot, only lanky Frank Bock is from the original team, but Kirkham, Lee and the lithe Dan O'Neill have been around almost as long.

The newest company recruits are Eddie Nixon and Luca Silvestrini. Anderson pays the former a high compliment when she says: "He was born to be a Featherstonehaugh." For his part, Nixon compares joining the group to "suddenly becoming a member of a family. There's a whole movement and behavioural language among a group of people who've been together this long. You have to find your way into that world and see how you fit in."

As for Silvestrini, his eerie resemblance to Schiele makes him superlatively cast in this piece. "But really," Anderson says, "they're all Egon Schiele."

The Featherstonehaughs perform tonight at the Liverpool Everyman (0151-709 476) and open the Spring Loaded festival at London's Place Theatre on Feb 24. Other dates include Cardiff (Feb 22), Tisbury (Feb 14), Leicester (Feb 19-20) and Brighton (Mar 3). The tour continues until March 27.

**MUSIC: Hilary Finch sings the praises of a charity's primary school initiative that is already defying government plans. Plus classical concert reviews**

## Who wants children to raise their voices?

In 1955 the composer Zoltan Kodaly gave a radio talk in which he looked back to his work with Bartok at the start of the new century. "The vision of an educated Hungary, reborn from the people, rose before us," he said. "We decided to devote our lives to its realisation." The first thing they did was to publish a collection of folksongs. Then they set up a radical programme for daily

musical training in primary schools. As the next new century approaches, we in Britain seem to perceive things rather differently. Indeed, if David Blunkett wanted to sideline music from the primary curriculum with immediate effect, rather than simply in two years' time, he would have very little difficulty. For despite the national curriculum's present declaration of each

child's statutory entitlement to a music education, the great majority of our primary schools are silent. With £40 million cut from music teaching budgets in the past three years, too many schools lack the resources, the skills - above all the sheer confidence - to include music for even the recommended hour a week.

But a new organisation called the Voices Foundation plans to make things much more difficult for the Government. For those who have ears to hear, a gentle humming is in the air.

Seven years ago a music teacher called Susan Digby went on a Churchill Fellowship to study with Peter Erdel, director of the Kodaly Institute in Kecskemet. What she saw there, and in primary schools throughout Hungary, "came as a thunderbolt. It was total enlightenment."

From that moment, Digby became convinced that the single most valuable tool in primary education was music. She felt there was an urgent need for a national body to support teachers who had lost their way, as well as those who had never found it. In the course of her search for trustees, and much energetic networking, she met a man called Michael Stocks, who had studied for himself how the Kodaly system worked in the US and, while working as a music adviser for Somerset, had collected 2,000 English folksongs and bound them together into a resource book for primary schools called *Growing with Music*.

Digby appointed Stocks as her director of curriculum and training, and the Voices Foundation was born. For no more than £5 per child per year the foundation, a registered charity, offers schools a one-year programme based on a vast repertoire of song. Seventy-six schools throughout Britain are already involved, and the Foundation aims to reach 2,500 schools within the next decade. Teachers, who receive both initial and in-service training, begin with an armful of songs - children's own songs, simple, peripatetic, tried and tested. And through these songs they begin to find each child's own singing voice: to match rather than impose



All together: Susan Digby and two young singing stars

pitch: to discover pulse; to distinguish it from rhythm. Both Digby and Stocks are obsessed with the primacy of the human voice. As Stocks observes: "For too long we've been dazzled by instruments. If you start with the voice, you are the sound, you are the instrument. A musical instrument, like a calculator, is outside yourself. Both are important - but at a later stage."

At Oakfield Primary School in Rugby, the Voices Foundation programme was introduced last September to a school with 47 per cent special needs pupils, dogged by poverty and low expectations. The head teacher, Heather Fielding, felt that, through singing, they could raise the children's self-esteem. After just one term, listening and speaking skills had improved and, at the request of parents who had hitherto refused to come near the school, a weekly parents' choir had been formed.

The last time Mario Venzago came to Symphony Hall he brought a Bruckner symphony with him. This time his programme with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra could hardly be more different. It is true that it began with music by Bruckner's idol, Richard Wagner, but it went on from there to Ravel, whose aesthetic was the very antithesis of theirs, and to Honegger, who had rather more time for Wagner, but not that much.

The impression the Swiss conductor left, however, was much the same as before. He is a benign rather than a dynamic influence, effective in guiding an orchestra that has got into its stride but not so good at getting things started or sustaining the pressure where it is liable to fail. Honegger's *Mouvement symphonique No 1: Pacific*

## Sort the men from the boys

A debate is currently raging in a specialist journal about the relative advantages of women's and boys' voices as the top line in choral music. Since one of the most vigorous proponents of the latter is - not surprisingly - the director of the Choir of New College, Oxford, Edward Higginbottom, and since that choir sings for the King's Consort, the debate is topical.

It is a particularly relevant discussion in the case of Handel's oratorio *Belshazzar*, because here the composer deploys his choral forces with special virtuosity; representing in turn resilient Jews, self-confident Persians and riotous Babylonians, the chorus has to run the gamut from martial swagger to drunken orgy. New College Choir is well-drilled, admirably blended and able to supply two very satisfactory small character parts from among its ranks. But it would be idle to pretend that even this fine choir had the resources fully to project its multifaceted role.

That, however, was only one of the reasons Wednesday's performance took so long to catch fire. There were some good things in the first part: Neal Davies dragging the "painful weary life" of the Babylonian defector Gobrias in a grief-deflected melodic line; the King's Consort cantering neatly and efficiently through number after number. But in spite of King's generous gesturing, there was little sense of phrases being sculpted, of paragraphs unfolding, of drama injected. Indeed, the motor of the performance seemed to be the

splendid continuo section, powered by the dynamic Richard Egarr on harpsichord, spreading and ornamenting arpeggios with razzle-dazzle, but always stylish brilliance.

Just what was missing became evident in the second part, when James Bowman, as Daniel, stepped forward, at Belshazzar's rudely interrupted feast, to interpret the enigmatic writing on the wall. Lowering his score, Bowman

actually addressed the king: the first moment of dramatic verisimilitude in the whole evening. Belshazzar soon disappeared, but Bowman continued to hold the stage.

After this, both Lynne Dawson (Nitocris) and Catherine Denley (Cyrus) seemed to warn to their parts. Neal Davies delivered another fine aria and James Gilchrist, clear of diction and alert in phrasing, won thoroughly deserved plaudits for his late substitution in the title role.

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231, was a vivid example. Once it had got going, it thundered along the track most impressively. The beginning of the piece, on the other hand, had little of the vital sense of energy just waiting to be released and at one point the performance threatened to run out of steam. The same composer's *Mouvement symphonique No 3* was well characterised in the dramatic opening

sections but, in spite of the melodious saxophone solo, failed in interest some time before the epilogue was over.

Venzago's most successful achievement was in Ravel's *La Valse*, where the rhythms were supple, the string-playing voluptuous and the intoxicated animation of the second half of the piece authentically alarming. Ravel's Piano Concerto in G had begun uncertainly and the soloist, Anne Queffelec, seemed unable to find the confidence that would have allowed her effectively to offset her primly articulated Adagio in the quicker movements on either side. The orchestra was happier in Siegfried's *Rhinis Journey* and *Funeral March* which, after another uncertain start, achieved all due heroism in sound and stature.

GERALD LARNER

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# What's a nice girl like her doing on the shelf?

Have no fear - Joan Cusack is only slightly like the character she plays in the hit comedy *In & Out*. Matt Wolf reports

Comedy is traditionally the bridesmaid at any awards ceremony, so it is something of a surprise that Joan Cusack's performance in *In & Out* as the overweight would-be bride to Kevin Kline's "outed" gay schoolteacher has received the attention that it has. In December Cusack was named Best Supporting Actress by the New York Film Critics Circle, a prize followed up by a Golden Globe nomination last month (she lost to *L.A. Confidential*'s Kim Basinger). And today the actress and older sister of Hollywood star John Cusack is expected to reappear in the same category, alongside Basinger, on the Oscar shortlist.

All this for a performance that asks for little more than laughter? Of course: not everyone can turn a fifted Midwesterner's nuptial distress into a virtuosic bit of performance art. To watch Cusack, in full wedding regalia, drop down in the middle of the street and howl "Is everybody gay?" is to witness hysteria pushed to a hilarious limit. In a film that tends to promise more than it delivers, Cusack brings a dizzy spin to the movie's didactic and sometimes cloying tendencies.

"I really give credit to Paul Rudnick," Cusack says, referring to the screenwriter not just of *In & Out* but of *Jeffrey* and *Addams Family Values*, the last of which featured Cusack as a scheming nanny. "It has to be written well and can't be silly and goofy in the way that sometimes people perceive comic performances to be. They just have to be light. Paul was able to make the part very smart and human, to have poignancy as well as comedy."

However it was accomplished, the result has given Cusack, now 35, her biggest career boost yet in the decade since she enlivened Mike Nichols's film *Working Girl*, playing Melanie Griffith's secretary-friend with piles of hair. That film also brought her an Oscar nomination and made her Hollywood's discovery of the moment at a time when, Cusack feels, she wasn't ready for a spotlight she is only really starting to enjoy now.

"I was so overwhelmed, I didn't know how to handle all the stuff," she says. "Just being part of

Hollywood can be a really overwhelming and intimidating experience: it really is a planet Hollywood. It's very intense and very powerful, and people are very competitive. Back then I didn't have any way to try to figure out how to shape myself or help myself to be presentable in the way I wanted to be. I was just young."

Her newfound confidence is reflected in *In & Out*, her biggest film role to date. Cusack says she auditioned "maybe four times" to get the part. "I tried to think a lot about what it would feel like if that kind of thing happened to me," she

**6 Women tend to think things are their problem and their fault?**

says. So hard did she work at character identification, in fact, that she contributed one of the key lines of the film, when she asks Kline's Howard: "Was there any other time you could have told me?"

Does her character, Emily, not realise that the love of her life is gay? "You get wrapped up in your own things — in her case, losing weight, making herself thinner and prettier; all the things women tend to do to themselves. They think things are their problem and their fault and that they need to fix themselves, and really in this case it wasn't her fault at all."

Cusack can identify with her predicament. "I think I've done that a million times, where I've thought something was wrong with me or I wasn't this enough or that enough, and it wasn't my fault: the guy just wasn't available or just wasn't ready to be in a committed relationship, whatever his emotional problems were."

For her part, Cusack divides her time between her flourishing career and her life as wife to a corporate lawyer and mother to seven-month-old son Dylan. Tellingly, the trio

live, not in Los Angeles or New York, but Chicago, not far from the suburban town of Evanston where Cusack and her four siblings — all of them actors, and unrelated to the Irish Cusacks — grew up.

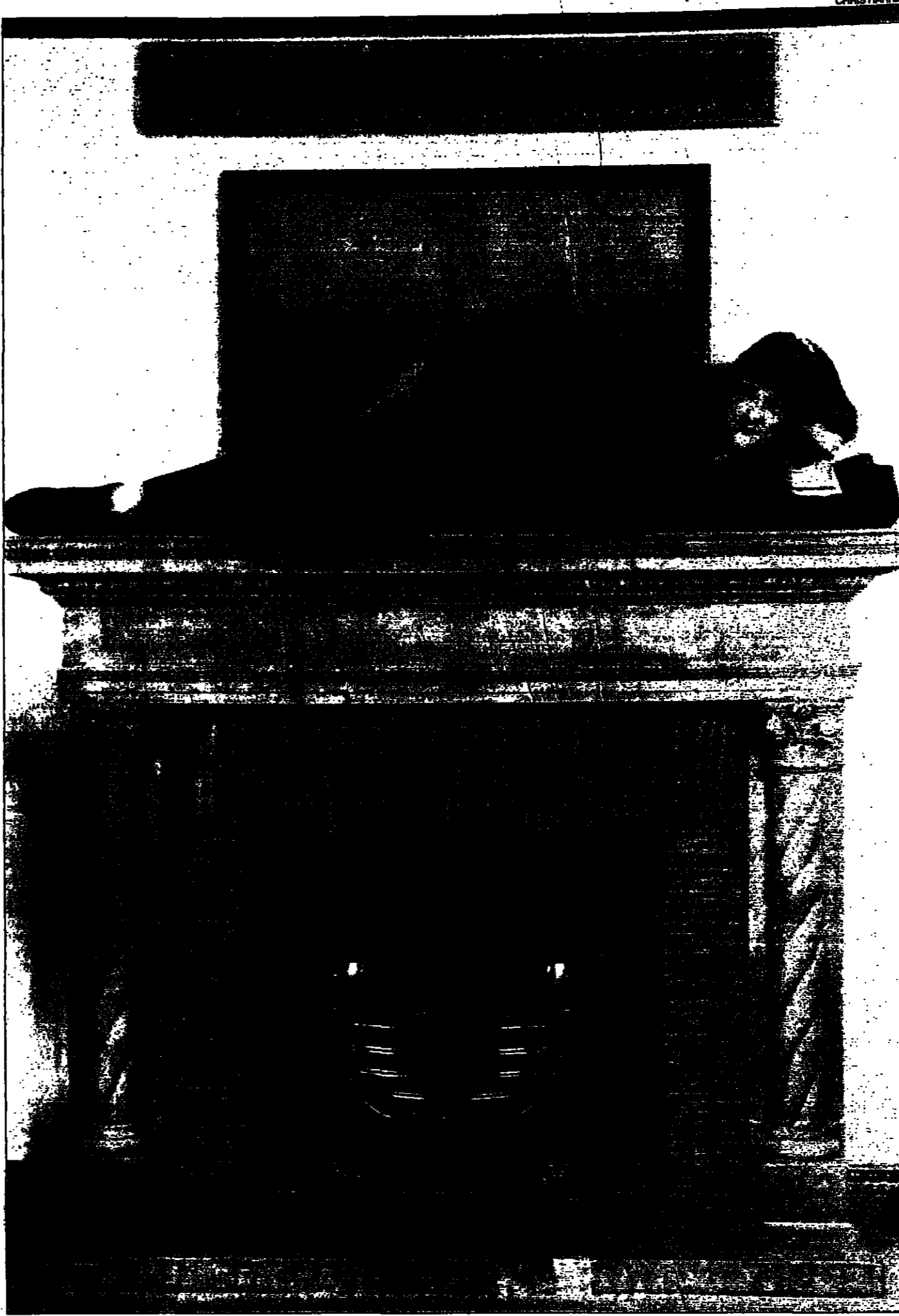
"It's a very kind of modern woman experience," she says. "I want a job and a career that are meaningful to me and important, but I also want a family and a great relationship with my husband. Having a partner with a normal kind of job and a stable life in that way, he can say: 'Wait a minute; that's kind of extreme behaviour there' — and there are some very extreme behaviours in Hollywood."

Although her famous brother John last year co-wrote and produced his own film *Grosse Pointe Blank* (in which Joan took the small role of yet another secretary, her de facto screen specialty), Cusack speaks ambivalently of going the Demi Moore route of initiating her own screen work. "Anyone in any job wants to be able to choose, and help to make what you do for a living enjoyable. If you have a lot of power you may have more opportunity to do that, but sometimes you have less; sometimes you don't get people around you who really tell you the truth. That brings its own set of circumstances with it."

Instead, she is working up a TV sitcom for CBS to be shot in Chicago, and speaks of wanting to return to the theatre, having led Off-Broadway productions of *Cymbeline* (as Imogen, the central character) and the New York premiere of Jim Cartwright's *Road*, complete with a Lancastrian accent: "I came to England and hung out for a while and tried to really get it."

For now, however, she's back in Washington DC, filming "a serious part" in a mystery, *Arlington Road*, with Jeff Bridges and Tim Robbins, and awaiting Oscar night on March 23. "Hopefully I will enjoy the ceremony this time, or at least try to enjoy it," she says. "It's sad if it just gets to be about winning, you know? I mean, I've had a great year, a wonderful baby, a great part in a film: at that point, you've won so much already."

● *In & Out* opens on Friday



Joan Cusack adorns the mantle of stardom: her role as the bride jilted by a gay man in *In & Out* has put her in Oscar contention

## An admirably arranged marriage

Despite being billed as part of the Barbican's current *Inventing America* festival, this event celebrated the work of a Canadian — Toronto-born composer and arranger Gil Evans — interpreted by a European big band: the Danish Radio Jazz

Orchestra. True, both the conductor, Maria Schneider, and the principal soloist, saxophonist David Sanborn, are American, but the abiding impression left at the evening's end was that *The Legacy of Gil Evans*, as the concert was billed, had been bequeathed

a jazz world less interested in the accident of a musician's birth than in his commitment to a universal language.

Evans's music, from his arrangements for Miles Davis of Falla and Gershwin to his own varied, often rock-laced compositions, is not easy to play, and the DRJO negotiated the trickiest of its waters with aplomb and not a little passion.

The concert began, though, not with one of Evans's pieces, but with a Schneider composition whose exquisite distillation of her mentor's music is neatly encapsulated in its title: *Evanescence*. Embracing an Evansesque floating, plangent waltz, a rocky, guitar-led passage and a tender, muted trumpet solo, it set the concert's tone perfectly by viewing Evans's music both as a treasure in itself, and — more importantly — also as an enduring source of inspiration for jazz's current practitioners. Sanborn's role necessarily involved his playing parts,

## JAZZ

particularly those from *Porgy and Bess* and *Sketches of Spain*, firmly associated with Miles Davis, but it is paying Sanborn the highest compliment to acknowledge that, once the asstringency of his sound had been assimilated, the ear quickly stopped listening for his illustrious predecessor's uniquely evocative, piercing but vulnerable trumpet and simply revelled in the alto's fluency and eloquence.

Such concerts, when they work — and this was a flawless performance from all concerned — do a great deal more than push nostalgic pleasure buttons: they keep alive in a way taken for granted in the classical world but still relatively rare in jazz (always a little suspicious of repertory music), the appreciation of the genius of masters past.

CHRIS PARKER

## At the age of 27, the American pianist Geoff Keezer has more professional experience than many players twice his age.

*Chris Parker writes.* When he was 18 he had both made his recording debut as a leader and become the last occupant of the piano stool in Art Blakey's hard-bop academy, the Jazz Messengers. He was signed to Blue Note at 19 and has since worked with mature masters such as trumpeter Art Farmer and with his own generation's jazz stars: saxophonist Joshua Redman, bassist Christian McBride singer Diana Krall, all of whom appear on his latest album, *Turn up the Quiet*.

This album provided the basis for his trio appearance at Pizza Express (Dean Street, W1). The album's first track, the swing classic *Stompin' at the Savoy*, was his opener, giving him the opportunity to warm up with some of his trademark splashily percussive soloing over a slow-bolting rhythm section comprising bassist James Genus and drummer Gary Husband. His next selection, however,

## Diamond Keezer

Björk's *Venus as a Boy*, suddenly transformed the trio from unplugged modern mainstainers into an electric band, Keezer utilising an additional keyboard for colour and

contrast, Genus a six-string bass guitar to give a bit more bite to the sound.

Two love songs followed, the first a luxuriantly slow visit to Hoagy Carmichael's *The*

*Nearness of You*; the second an original called *Island Palace*, inspired by Okinawan folk music and featuring Keezer's lyrical piano over Genus's insistent, chugging electric bass. From here on in, the trio moved easily between post-bop acoustic workouts and contemplative ballads.

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**BUILDING A LIBRARY: DON GIOVANNI**  
A connoisseur's guide to the best available recordings on compact disc, presented in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

**MOZART'S DON GIOVANNI**  
Reviewed by John Deathridge

There are 32 current recordings of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. Two are legendary: Fritz Busch's 1936 Glyndebourne recording and the live New York Metropolitan Opera performance conducted by Bruno Walter in 1942. Walter assembled some of the leading Mozart singers of the day, including the magnificent Ezio Pinza as the Don and Alexander Kipnis as Leporello, who set one another alight in a performance bristling with vitality and humour.

Furtwängler's little-known 1950 Salzburg performance had Tito Gobbi in the title role. Gobbi's baritone is more flexible than Cesare Siepi's famous bass in the better-known 1954 Salzburg performance, but both recordings are marred by excessive on-stage noise and Furtwängler's overly symphonic approach.

Among the many studio recordings, only a few stand out. One of the most enduring is Joseph Krips's from the mid-1950s, with a feast of good singing from Cesare Siepi, Lisa Della Casa and Anton Dermota. Otto Klemperer's Beethovenian thoroughness is not to everyone's taste, but his profound sympathy with Mozart's score brings out much of its enigmatic detail.

Among the performances on period instruments, Arnold Ostrman's and Roger Norrington's are notable for their acute sense of pace. Ostrman's version is better, dancing its way towards the demise of Don Giovanni, but without quite catching the excitement of the climax.

However, the weightier voices in Carlo Maria Giulini's 1959 recording win it the palm. Eberhard Wechter, Gottlob Frick, Joan Sutherland and Elisabeth Schwarzkopf give it the momentum it needs to rise to the tragic high-point of the Don's death. The performance has warmth and rich detail that make the evil in the heart of the hero all the more shocking when it emerges. Giulini and his engineers also created a highly differentiated range of sound that makes this a recording to be treasured (EMI CDS 5 56232-2 £46.99).

● To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk

● Next Saturday on Radio 3 (Pam): Monteverdi's *Il Combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda*

**STURDAY NIGHT FEVER**  
ON SUNDAY NIGHT  
BE DRINKING  
DISCO INFERNO  
MORE THAN A WOMAN  
STAYIN' ALIVE

سكوا من الأصل

# Continental damned

MARILYN KINGWAL

The Gate launches the season of European plays it is calling *Biennale 1998* with two short pieces which left me feeling that however downcast Britain's dramatists may be about the prospects for youth as the millennium approaches, their counterparts on the mainland are glummer still.

I would not recommend a young couple to take a trip to either the dingy Germany of Helmut Krausser's *Leatherface* or the drab, wintry Norway of Jon Fosse's far better *The Child*. After all, the cumulative message is that, if the Teutonic police don't get you, the Scandinavian gods probably will.

This is the first play its author did not destroy," says the publicity for *Leatherface*, and I must at least say that I admire his forbearance. No doubt the piece has a frisson in Germany itself, since it is based on the case of a Munich man who held his girlfriend hostage and was shot by police. Civil rights reporters saw this as "reintroducing the death penalty by the back door." And maybe audiences there were prepared to swallow Krausser's claim that it deals with "the chronic state of panic of the Western world gone awry, the resulting masks and mutations, the complete cancelling out of reality in simulation".

But what we actually see is a twerplish youth bickering with his girl after he has spent her money on a chainsaw and, dressed in scarf and bloody apron, sat down to enjoy what presumably is a video of *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*. A neighbour gets the wrong idea; a police siege starts; and Paul Viragh's Sie and Katy Carmichael's She, as the characters are portentously called, treat the whole thing



as a big giggle. This it isn't, but then it isn't much else either, least of all a trenchant comment on our troubled era. All *Leatherface* ends up saying is: don't wave chainsaws at coppers well dressed in monster masks and expect to get off scot-free.

Despite what feels like a debt to early Pirner and ironic references to early Ibsen, *The Child* is a much more original piece. Scene I is set in a bus shelter occupied by an old man (Peter Sproule) whose full-time obsession is collecting empty bottles; a lonely girl called Agnes (Sophie Thurstfield), who always leaves her matches at home so as to be able to ask strangers for a light; and forlorn young Fredrick (Andrew Whipp).

Scene II closes Agnes and Fred in their bleak flat with her boring mum (Sheila Allen) and Scene III has them losing their first child in a dour hospital.

The *Child* tends to make Ingmar Bergman's or, for that matter, Ibsen's Scandinavian look like a Californian beach party. Yet the flat, repetitive dialogue and pale, unsmiling faces of Ramin Gray's excellent cast prove more absorbing than *Leatherface*, as well as more successful at creating a distinctively contemporary feel. You are left with the impression of baffled, lost people haplessly in search of — what? Love, God, security, understanding, children? At times they themselves seem scarcely to know.

## BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Bad skin day: Katy Carmichael, and Paul Viragh in the German play, *Leatherface*

## Drama with feet of clay

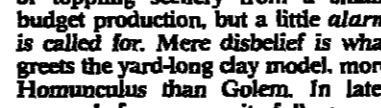


RABBI LOEW probably lived a scholarly and blameless life in 16th-century Prague, but the legend of the Golem has been foisted upon him and, like Dr Faustus, the supernatural has run away with his name.

In order to save the inhabitants of the ghetto from Jew-baiting Christians, Loew fashions a man from mud, breathes a magic word into him and forthwith the Golem, for it is he, roams the city spreading terror among the wicked Christians. In the manner of so many feared technological inventions, it then goes out of control, and man must learn the folly of dabbling in what is God's prerogative.

So far, so good as a stimulus for spine-chilling tales equipped with a firmly conservative message. But what does Peter Wolf's play make of it? First of all, his succession of strange scenes does none of the things the programme note tells us they will, other than to suggest that the Golem represents our worst fears. Even this, which has theatrical possibilities, is limited to Loew's dismay after raising his hand against his own daughter —

## Too much jaw-jaw



ie seeking, albeit briefly, to destroy what he loves.

Where is the whirlwind of the elements when Maxwell Hutcheon's Loew and his assistants create the monster? One doesn't ask for flames or toppling scenery from a small-budget production, but a little alarm is called for. Mere disbelief is what greets the yard-long clay model, more Homunculus than Golem. In later scenes, before we see its fully formed form, the cast bend their necks back as though the menace is 50ft high. But it turns out to be played by the actor who has taken the role of Brother Thaddeus, the worst of the Jews' persecutors. This scores high marks for psychology but zero for fright.

Hutcheon conveys the otherworldliness of Loew, but finds it difficult to switch into avenger mode. Catherine Cusack plays his daughter with her characteristic walk, as though shoulders get their instructions fractionally after hips, suggesting adolescent honesty. As the ghetto prostitute Sarah Belcher's eyes glow with the knowledge of male shame.

Wolf tells his story with daunting directness and neither he nor his director, Leona Heimfeld, seems to possess a necessary sense of the absurd. I am not asking for jokes, but when a repentant Loew looks in a holy book for the appropriate spell — "First catch your Golem" — the dialogue has wandered in from a cookbook. First catch your drama, Mr Wolf.

JEREMY KINGSTON

## ONCE upon a time Tehran was a happening place...

ONCE upon a time Tehran was a happening place, and between 1951 and 1953 a budding democracy keen to get rid of the Shah and loosen the financial thumbscrews snapped on it by the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, better known as BP. Try as we might, it is hard to dissociate Iran now from the subsequent military coup, the routine tortures, the Ayatollah, the storming of the Iranian Embassy and the Salman Rushdie fatwa.

Mehrdad Seyt's new play for the fledgling company 30 Bird puts all such dodgy baggage to one side as he recreates those heady expectations of the early 1950s. His point is that there are Iranian heroes and they were people like his parents and relatives: staid secular types who did the laundry while chatting about quantum politics. If I could shed chains explaining the convoluted shtetnigans of Mosaddegh's Popular Front I would be Weight Watchers' slimmer of the century.

The simple thrust is that four friends who rejoice in the long-term health of the new Iranian democracy fail to see

the brutal short term as their newly won freedom is pulled from under their feet. The problem with Seyt's play is that it strains so hard to be theatrical and falls so badly at the same time. His austere, formal characters never get much beyond being one half of a political or marital schism. They are moulds waiting to be filled with something more substantial than the cardboard dialogue concocted around them. Jelly would be an improvement.

The lack of emotional chemistry is aggravated by flat, cinematic settings. Half the action between Andrew Pullan's political activist Mammad, his wife Minou, his political associate Parviz and their friend Mitra, takes place in four receding cubicles behind a large screen placed diagonally across the stage. The only real logic of this off-putting exercise is to move the soporific political discussions around unlikely parts of the stage.

So stilled was the rest of the show, particularly the sexless scenes between Pullan's Mammad and Claire Summerfield's arid intellectual wife Minou, that I would happily endorse Seyt's claim to be the first Iranian Painter. The one devastating moment, a sour pun on the title, provides tardy recompense for two and a quarter hours of heavy drivel.

Despite the wonderful folk music (provided by Hamid Karim-Nessai and Behzad Bolourfoushan), Iranian theatre remains an indigestible delicacy for me.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

### LONDON

**AMERICAN SAMPLER:** The outstanding soprano Barbara Hendricks joins the National Symphony Orchestra under Michael Tilson Thomas for a performance of Barber's *Knoxville Summer of 1915* in a series of concerts setting out to capture the pioneering spirit of American classical composers. The programme also includes Charles Ives and John Adams. *Barber's Knoxville Summer of 1915* (17:15-18:30) Tonight, 7.30pm

**CAUSE CELEBRE:** Robinson's last play, a battle of moral attitudes between Anna Rattenbury and a woman in the elderly husband Ned Barlett. Discusses his angry assessment of 1930s hypocrisy. *Lyric King Street*, W6 (0181-741 0211). *Cause celebre*, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Tue-Sat, 2.30pm. Until April 4

**OF BLESSED MEMORY:** Set in Brooklyn, George Ratner's characters include a rabbi, a doctor, a Jew, Puerto Rican, and drug dealers. *Clippers of life on the edge*. *King's Head*, Upper Street, N1 (0171-255 1816). *Of blessed memory*, 8pm. *Clippers of life on the edge*, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; Tue-Sat, 2.30pm

**SABINA:** New Sino Wilson play about the patient Susan Vidler significantly based on the film *Paul McCartney by Paul McCartney*. *Andy Wilson directs*. *Bush, Shepherd's Bush Green*, W12 (0181-743 3388). Mon-Sat 8pm

**THE SOLDIER'S TALE:** The dramatic story of the evening's narrative of the *Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields Chamber Ensemble* in a semi-staged performance. *St Martin-in-the-Fields*. *St Martin-in-the-Fields*, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm

### TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargre

### ELSEWHERE

**CAMBRIDGE:** The acclaimed young soprano Amanda Roccoff joins the London Mozart Players under its music director Matthias Bamert to perform operas such as Mozart and Handel. The predominantly romantic programme also includes Schubert's *Mass in G* and Mendelssohn's *Symphony No 4*. *Cambridge*, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm



Barbara Hendricks sings at the Barbican

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### THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

**HOUSE FULL, returns only** *Some seats available* *Seats at all prices*

**THE GOLEM** Peter Wolf retells the legend of Rabbi Loew of Prague, who created a being from clay with Jewish consciousness. The birth of the Frankenstein story. Produced by Polygraph Theatre Co in association with Jewish Arts. *Ende Lane*, EC4 (0171-436 3456). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm; Mon-Sat, 2.30pm

**LAKESHORE** European premiere of David Mamet's first play, dating from 1970. A rugged slice of life aboard a cargo boat on the Great Lakes. Aaron Muller directs. *Cast of eight*. *Perman Productions*. *Lyric Theatre*, King Street, Westminster, W6 (0181-741 8701). Mon-Sat, 8pm; Tue-Sat, 4.30pm. Until February 28

**THE MAGISTRATE** Ian Richardson plays the much harassed judge in a funny reveal of Pinard's farce. *Cast includes Graham Crowden, Frank Middlemass, Joan Plowden, Jennifer Wilson*. *W6*, 7.30pm. *W6 and Sat*, 3pm

**MISS POACH'S WAR** Chae Salaman in the 1916 role of this war-time thriller, adapted by Richard Kane, who plays the sinister Thelma. *From Patrick Hamilton's novel*. *The Slaves of Solitude*. *Jenny Lee directs*. *Co-production with WestEnders*. *Arco Theatre*, Orpwell Rd, East Croydon, Surrey, Surrey, S23 9JN. *Wed-Sat*, 8pm; *Mon-Sat*, 5pm

**RICHARD III** Eddie Marsan plays the villainous hero in Guy Robb's *Richard III*. *Production by the Royal Shakespeare Company*. *Arco Theatre*, Orpwell Rd, East Croydon, Surrey, Surrey, S23 9JN. *Wed-Sat*, 8pm; *Mon-Sat*, 5pm

**ROMEO AND JULIET** Nicholas Ince, fresh out of drama school, plays opposite Kate Fleetwood in *Romeo and Juliet*. *Production by the Royal Shakespeare Company*. *Arco Theatre*, Orpwell Rd, East Croydon, Surrey, Surrey, S23 9JN. *Wed-Sat*, 8pm; *Mon-Sat*, 5pm

**BEADY BROTHERS** *Phoenix* (0171-369 7232) *Beady Bunch* (0171-369 7232) *Beady Bunch* (0171-369 7232) *Beady Bunch* (0171-369 7232)

**THE MOUNTAIN** *St Martin's* (0171-494 5400) *The Mountain* (0171-494 5400) *The Mountain* (0171-494 5400) *The Mountain* (0171-494 5400)

**THE PHANTOMS OF THE OPERA** *Her Majesty's* (0171-494 5400) *The Phantoms of the Opera* (0171-494 5400) *The Phantoms of the Opera* (0171-494 5400) *The Phantoms of the Opera* (0171-494 5400)

**THE WINTER GUEST** *Durham* (0191-265 6148) *The Winter Guest* (0191-265 6148) *The Winter Guest* (0191-265 6148) *The Winter Guest* (0191-265 6148)

**REDEMPTION MAN** *Arco Theatre* (0171-437 4343) *Redemption Man* (0171-437 4343) *Redemption Man* (0171-437 4343) *Redemption Man* (0171-437 4343)

**STELLA DOES TRICKS** *Powerful* (0171-437 4343) *Stella Does Tricks* (0171-437 4343) *Stella Does Tricks* (0171-437 4343) *Stella Does Tricks* (0171-437 4343)

**TITANIC** *Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio* (0171-222 2222) *Titanic* (0171-222 2222) *Titanic* (0171-222 2222) *Titanic* (0171-222 2222)

**THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE** *Sarah Pollock* (0171-437 4343) *The Devil's Advocate* (0171-437 4343) *The Devil's Advocate* (0171-437 4343) *The Devil's Advocate* (0171-437 4343)

**THE ICE STORM** *Connecticut* (0171-331 3742) *The Ice Storm* (0171-331 3742) *The Ice Storm* (0171-331 3742) *The Ice Storm* (0171-331 3742)

**THE WOODLANDERS** *Unsettled* (0171-235 2773) *The Woodlanders* (0171-235 2773) *The Woodlanders* (0171-235 2773) *The Woodlanders* (0171-235 2773)

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**THE WOODLANDERS** *Unsettled* (0171-235 2773) *The Woodlanders* (0171-235 2773) *The Woodlanders* (0171-235 2773) *The Woodlanders* (0171-235 2773)

### NEW RELEASES

**CLUBBED TO DEATH** (18) A young woman exposes the rave scene on the outskirts of London. *Directed by Yolande Zauberman*. *Wendie Boische*. *Barbican*. *Release* (0171-837 8402)

**FLUBBER** (U) *Frank*. *Disney*. *comedy*. *with Robin Williams* as the accidental inventor of gravity-defying open goal. *Directed by Frank*. *Odeon*. *Camden Town* (0181-315 4235). *Kensington* (0181-315-2144). *Richmond* (0181-315-2144). *Wimbledon* (0181-315-2144). *Wimbledon* (0181-315-2144)

**THE ICE STORM** (18) *Connecticut*. *Directed by Ang Lee*. *with Kevin Kline and Sigourney Weaver*. *Phoenix*. *Release* (0171-331 3742). *Phoenix*. *Release* (0171-331 3742). *Phoenix*. *Release* (0171-331 3742). *Phoenix*. *Release* (0171-331 3742)

**THE WOODLANDERS** (18) *Unsettled*. *Directed by Richard Kane*. *with Chae Salaman*. *Arco Theatre*. *Release* (0171-235 2773). *Arco Theatre*. *Release* (0171-235 2773). *Arco Theatre*. *Release* (0171-235 2773). *Arco Theatre*. *Release* (0171-235 2773)

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You will be able to work well with staff at all levels and have an authoritative but diplomatic approach to regulated businesses. You must have first rate drafting skills and be able to deal with a flexible and varied workload.

Please send a full curriculum vitae with a letter outlining your suitability for the position by 27 February 1998 to: Mary L. Brunton, Head of Personnel, OFGAS, 3rd Floor, 16 Palace Street, London SW1E 5JD.

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LAW

● MEDIA MEDDLING 41
● LAW REPORT 44

Frances Gibb talks to the QC written off as a stopgap Attorney-General

Mr Morris steps out of the shadow

Predators with an eye to the job of Attorney-General in the run-up to the election had John Morris, QC, pensioned off. He proved them wrong. His 18 years in opposition shadowing the Attorney-General's job finally paid off. "I never crossed my mind that I would not be doing it," he says. "I was told by Tony Blair two years before that I would be, so in the last six months I did not take on any long fraud cases. I was preparing for office, touring the country."



Morris, QC: "It never crossed my mind that I would not be doing this job"

As things stand, the law can be undermined "by a sidekick," he says. "If you regard the protection of rape victims as important, you must leave at no stone unturned to see if there's a way of dealing with this. Otherwise, what is the point of having the legislation? I am never happy with spitting in the wind."

A lament for parodies lost

In 1978 Mr Justice Foster decided that "only a moron in a hurry would be misled" by the similarity in name between the long-established far-left newspaper, the Morning Star, and the new Daily Star, published by Express Newspapers. He therefore dismissed the claim by the former MP Alan Clark received a more sympathetic response from Mr Justice Lightman to his passing-off claim against the London Evening Standard in relation to a spoof diary. Mr Clark's solicitor wrote on these pages last week applauding the judgment.



DAVID PANNICK QC

That is an inevitable risk of an effective parody. The problem for the court is whether the humourless or inattentive reader should be regarded as reasonable or unreasonable in the law of passing-off. Mr Clark should have lost his case. Freedom of expression is of crucial importance in relation to a political parody and the law should not grant remedies because some (or many) readers fail to get the point.

Quick, stop that stapler

AS IF the Lord Chancellor did not have enough troubles, his department has fallen victim to burglars. Almost £2,000 worth of office equipment has been stolen from the LCD since last May.

Meeting of minds

A NEW group for young telecommunications lawyers is holding its launch meeting this week. Don Cruickshank of Ofel is the key speaker.

Mission impossible for Gary Hart?

GARY HART, senior planning partner at Herbert Smith, will be wondering whether he is taking on mission impossible in his post as special policy adviser to the Lord Chancellor.



Coker: complaint about Lord Irvine

Among the cast? Judge Henry Blacksell and Mr Justice Eady, who were performing in the Middle Temple revel last week. Details of the event, which will be held at Lincoln's Inn Old Hall, from February

day. Details from Mr Naylor via e-mail on: david.naylor@weil.com

The X files

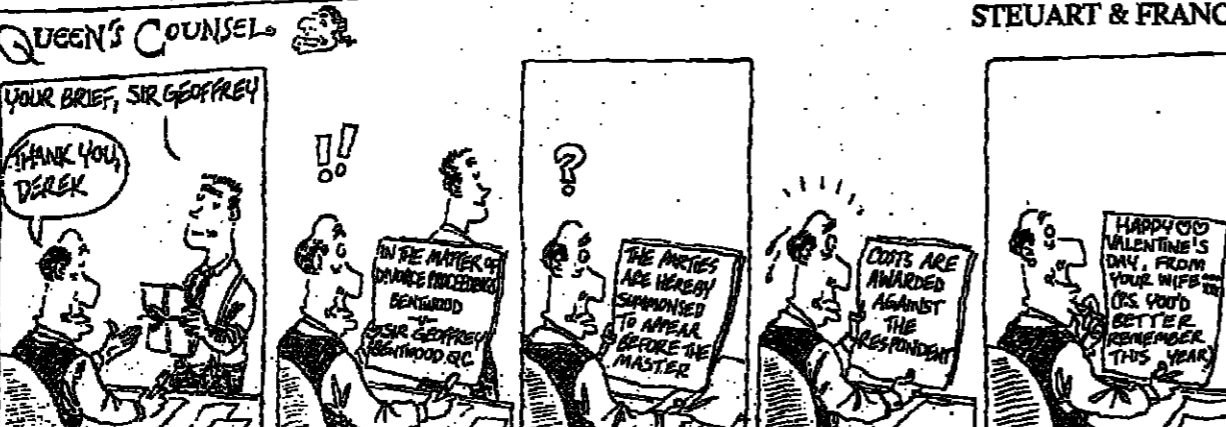
WILDE SAPTE has released details of a strange fire at the firm's Paris office. It happened a little over a year ago when staff at the firm had just completed a huge transaction - the export financing of an A340 aircraft - after working all night.

Legal scrap

THE prospect of another dogfight at the Law Society looms. Last week plans to stage a mini election within the council in April so that it can nominate its own "official" candidates for the deputy vice-presidency were approved by the society's policy committee.

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Angela Devlin, left, Jane Simon and Sheila Bowler, and Tim Devlin: with media help, their campaign succeeded in winning freedom for Mrs Bowler

# The media were right

### A judge's criticism of press investigation was wrong, say Angela and Tim Devlin

Judicial irritation at the media's intervention in miscarriages of justice emerged several times during the past few weeks at the trial of Sheila Bowler. She was cleared at the Old Bailey last Thursday of the murder of her 89-year-old aunt, Mrs Bowler, 68, alleged to have pushed Florence Jackson into an East Sussex river in 1992, was convicted the next year and given a life sentence. Until her release last July for the retrial, she had served four years of the sentence.

At one point, the judge, Mr Justice Wright, stared fixedly at Steve Phelps, the producer of Channel 4's *Trial and Error* programme (shown last night) and his colleagues on the press benches, to warn them about the bias in programmes that had been screened about the case. "Let this be a warning to those who make television programmes," he said, when he learnt that two hostile witnesses had come forward as a result of one of three programmes on the case.

Perhaps this was just good fun at the media's expense. But if it had not been for television's probing and investigating the theory that Mrs Jackson might have walked to her death, supported on air by Professor Archie Young, an expert on geriatric behaviour, the case of Mrs Bowler would never have reached the Central Criminal Court.

The case was a difficult one. In theory, an accused person is innocent unless proved guilty. But Mrs Bowler's defend-

ers had to show how Aunt Flo, seemingly immobile and frail, came to be in the water. Her body was found in the river, 500 yards from where she was left in a car at night on a busy road, while her niece was seeking help for a flat tyre. Mr Justice Garland said at the first trial (when the jury were absent): "The jury can ask themselves: if not the defendant, then who?" No other plausible explanation was offered, and the jury convicted.

When we started the campaign to free Mrs Bowler - whom, because our daughters were at the same primary school in Rye, we have known for 15 years - we had the daunting task of having to find an explanation for Mrs Jackson's death. Even if the Criminal Cases Review Commission had then existed, it would not have had the funds to launch an inquiry. Solicitors we approached were going to charge us £200 an hour for an initial consultation alone. Television was the obvious recourse.

The producer and a researcher from *Trial and Error* visited Mrs Bowler in prison and were so convinced of her innocence that they made a programme before the appeal. Three journalists visited her in

Holloway. Mrs Bowler's account convinced them of her innocence, and they wrote moving articles about her plight.

But now, under a new ruling, journalists and television researchers are no longer allowed access to serving prisoners, unless the media make a written undertaking not to use for professional purposes any material gained from the visit.

The Court of Appeal last December overturned a ruling by Mr Justice Latham (in January 1997) that the right of free speech includes a right of oral access to the media, and that convicted prisoners, despite their imprisonment, retain this civil right. When Jack Straw appealed against the judge's decision, the appeal court judges found in the Home Secretary's favour. They concluded: "A convicted prisoner has no right to communicate orally with the media through a journalist, the loss of that right being part and parcel of a sentence of imprisonment."

The law lords insisted that though prisoners have lost the right to communicate orally with the media through journalists, they could still communicate by letter. But prisoners' letters are routinely opened and some are read by prison officers. Many fear reprisals: by

definition, prisons are places of secrecy and paranoia, and staff commonly discourage correspondence with the media. Nor can investigative programmes such as *Trial and Error* hope to establish the validity of prisoners' stories or their alleged alibis without face-to-face contact.

In an ideal world, miscarriages of justice would be quickly righted. Mrs Bowler was granted leave to appeal fairly quickly, although she had spent two years in jail by the time the appeal was heard. The first appeal failed, and their lordships objected to criticism of the trial QC in the Court of Appeal, which was reported in the media.

In response to feature articles in national newspapers, and a second *Trial and Error* programme, hundreds of members of the public wrote to their MPs and to Michael Howard, then Home Secretary. Most had cared for old people and could testify to the extraordinary feats of relatives who had been considered immobile. Last February Mr Howard referred the case back to the Court of Appeal and in July last year the Lord Chief Justice ordered a retrial.

Trial by television may irritate their lordships, but for Sheila Bowler, and many others, it may be their last hope.

• The authors led the campaign for Mrs Bowler and have written a book, *Anybody's Nightmare*, about it. Advance orders: 01580 993630.

# Learned friends fall out over education

A crisis is brewing in the way in which Britain educates its lawyers. It erupted in public last week when the Senate at Bristol University voted to close its legal practice course (LPC). Insiders believe that Bristol's is the first of several likely closures, especially in regions over-supplied with courses.

The problems at Bristol pose deep questions about the nature of legal education and the capability of the legal profession, led by its teachers, to undertake worthwhile applied research.

This is illustrated in comments made by Professor Peter Birks, QC, and a Fellow of All Souls, to Professor David Evans, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Bristol, about the general standard of professional legal education. He said, for example, that the professional stage of the education of the country's lawyers had been done "appalling badly" and that "the old monopolist providers have taught it mechanically and uncreatively."

Professor Birks claimed that "generations of lawyers have been forced to abandon the critical and independent habits of mind learnt at university and have reverted to learning by heart. Changes over the last decade have brought some improvement, but nothing much is to be expected of institutions which repudiate responsibility for research."

In Bristol, conflict between those providing the professional training and those engaged in more academic research was brought to a head by questions of how limited funds were to be spent. But Professor Birks's main point is that professional legal education nationwide is a form of "dumbing-down" of bright graduates, who are forced into courses led by rank-and-file law teachers with no research capability.

The consequence, says Professor Birks, is that "little work is done on the realities of professional life and practice and not much on the theoretical aspects of preparing professionals for legal practice."

If true, this is a serious charge against the profession. But some top legal educators claim that the reform Birks is out of date and that recent reforms mean the LPC is now "a jewel in the crown" of the legal education system.

Yet there are debates about where legal education should be going, given the profession's ever-widening diversity. Ideally, the professional bodies should play the crucial role in sorting out this problem. But many commentators reckon that the Law Society, for one, is too tied up over various roles as a regulator and trade union to give a positive lead. As a result, it must fall to the colleges themselves to provide the answers. Professor Nigel Savage, the chief executive of the College of Law, thinks that the time is ripe to

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### Approaches to teaching law are being questioned. Edward Fennell charts the growing disquiet

develop real partnerships between the colleges and law firms so that research can be undertaken into the professional conduct of the law and the management of legal services. Already, Professor Savage is leading a variety of initiatives to bring professional education more into line with the real demands of modern-day lawyering.

One of his concerns is the need to develop a more professional approach in advocacy, training and dispute resolutions. Announcing yesterday the setting up of an Institute of Litigation, Advocacy and Case Management - which brings together the Australian Advocacy Institute and the Centre for Dispute Resolution - he admitted there was "a complete absence of structure that enables young litigators to develop all-round skills."

His new institute plans to go a long way towards remedying that weakness. It will benefit from Australia, which has already undergone "case management" reform and, in particular, the input of the Hon Justice George Hamel, the chairman of the Australian Advocacy Institute. Its great strength will be that it should serve lawyers throughout their careers, taking account of the latest developments to be at the leading edge of practice.

As for raising the standard of the LPC, the College of Law is now keen to exploit technology to widen access and put the bread and butter aspects on CD-Rom. It could then concentrate its human resources on more demanding, smaller seminar-style, face-to-face learning. That could certainly be one way forward to answer Professor Birks's complaints.

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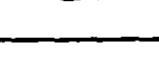
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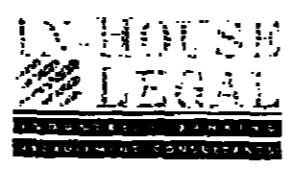
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# Restraining breach of copyright

**Phonographic Performance Ltd v Maitra and Others, Performing Right Society Ltd, Interveners**

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Mummery [Judgment February 5]

A copyright owner or assignee should, ordinarily, be granted an injunction with immediate effect and without express time limit where a defendant had infringed, and threatened to continue to infringe his copyright.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing appeals in default of judgment of the first instance, *Phonographic Performance Ltd v Maitra and Others*, [1997] 3 All ER 673. The appeal was against a decision of the Chancery Division on June 19, 1997 to restrict the injunctions granted following judgment in default of judgment against the defendants, Simon Andrew, Nick Rose and the Underworld (*Bradford*) Ltd for breach of copyright (*The Times* July 19, 1997; [1997] 3 All ER 673). The appeal was against an order made against the defendant Maitra was not pursued.

Mr Peter Goldsmith, QC, Mr Jonathan Rayner James, QC and Miss Amanda Michaels for PPL; Miss Mary Vitoria, QC for the Performing Right Society Ltd, Interveners; Mr Michael Silverleaf, QC, as amicus curiae.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appeal raised the question of what was the appropriate order to be made when final judgment for infringement of copyright was given in favour of the PPL in default of defence.

PPL, as assignees, administered on behalf of the vast majority of record companies, the performing, broadcasting and cable programme rights in their sound recordings. Like other collecting societies, PPL operated a number of standard tariffs for annual licences. A person who took a licence was entitled to use all of the recordings in the repertoire of PPL's member companies.

PPL had for many years sought and obtained from the judges of the Chancery Division final judgment in default against persons using the repertoire who had failed to take a licence. The orders included an injunction to restrain further infringement in the normal form, that is, with immediate effect and without an express limit of time.

In the present cases the judge had limited the injunction by providing that it should take effect 28 days after the date of the order and should continue for only seven months. The issue was whether the judge had been right to refuse to grant an injunction without the two limbs of the proviso.

The practice of PPL was to require a person who applied for a licence to take the licence from the first day that the person used the repertoire. Thus a person who infringed would not be granted a licence when he had regularised his position. Similarly a person who had been injured would not be granted a licence if he did not pay the appropriate licence fee in respect of the time when he had infringed.

The judge had been concerned at the practice of PPL using an injunction of unlimited duration as a lever to extract payment of past

fees, a practice he regarded as an abuse of process.

PPL submitted that where a plaintiff established that his copyright had been infringed and there was a threat of further infringement he was entitled as of course to an injunction to prevent the defendant from carrying out further infringements.

Their Lordships accepted that when a person established infringement of copyright and a threat to continue infringement, an injunction would in the ordinary case be granted without restriction. That was especially true when the defendant took no part in the proceedings.

But the court, when granting an injunction, was still required to exercise a discretion and in so doing there could be circumstances where restriction or refusal of an injunction would be warranted. Their Lordships did not believe that such circumstances arose in the present case or would normally do so in similar cases.

A person who exploited his property right by licensing was entitled, unless there were special circumstances, to prevent another from using that property right without his licence and to refuse to grant a licence save on his terms and conditions as to payment and use.

Where the defendant did not contest the allegation in the PPL's statement of claim, as well aware of PPL's rights and that he was infringing and showed an intention to continue to infringe, the court could see no reason why the use of an injunction in the normal form to prevent further infringement could be an abuse.

No doubt the consequence was

that a defendant was forced to pay if he wished to use the repertoire, but PPL were entitled to use the rights assigned to them for the purpose of requiring payment of fees in return for a licence to do what would, in the absence of a licence, be an infringement of the rights.

There had been no grounds for suspending the injunction for 28 days to provide time for negotiation. The defendant had, with full knowledge of the position, disregarded the proprietary rights of PPL. To allow him a further 28 days of infringement, which could also be a criminal offence under section 107(3)(b) of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, was wrong.

The second limb of the proviso was intended to ensure that the injunction did not continue for a period longer than was necessary to protect PPL's rights. The purpose of such a limitation in time was to prevent PPL using the threat of criminal to make the defendant pay further licence fees.

Where unauthorised use of PPL's copyright was taking place, their Lordships did not believe it was an abuse to refuse to license that copyright without an appropriate payment for past use and an agreement for future use. Nor was it an abuse for PPL to require compliance with an injunction either by the person refraining from using the repertoire or by paying for such use that had taken place and would take place.

It had been suggested by Mr Silverleaf that it might be appropriate in the present circumstances, where licences were available, to refuse to grant an injunction at all as damages would

be an adequate remedy and, if necessary, to award damages in lieu of an injunction under section 50 of the Supreme Court Act 1981. That, it was said, would reflect the position and provide appropriate relief - as PPL's desire was to maximise their return and not to refuse licences.

Such a course would not be sufficient to safeguard the rights of PPL for four reasons.

1 The defendants had an intention to continue to infringe PPL's rights. An injunction was the appropriate remedy to prevent that intention being carried out.

2 Calculation of the damages for future infringements of copyright in lieu of the injunction would not be practical, as it would not be possible to estimate the length of time the infringement would continue. Damages were rarely an appropriate remedy for unlicensed future use of copyright.

3 PPL were the owners of a statutory property right which they were seeking to enforce in the same way as they had done for many years. It would be surprising, almost special circumstances, if the court framed an injunction in terms which would license a defendant's activities when Parliament, in the 1988 Act, did not intend it was right to do so.

4 There was no reason why a court should have any sympathy with a defendant who was aware of PPL's rights and that he was infringing them and then showed an intention to continue to do so.

Solicitors: Hamlin Stone, Oxford Circus and Green Sheikh & Co., Marylebone; Mr T. N. Kenyon, Oxford Circus; Treasury Solicitor.

# Compelled interview can be used in disqualification

**Regina v Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Ex parte McCormick**

Before Lord Justice Morritt, Lord Justice Walker and Sir Christopher Staughton [Judgment February 5]

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry was entitled to decide that in proceedings for the disqualification of a company director, the evidence which the director was compelled under section 434 of the Companies Act 1985 to give to inspectors appointed by the secretary of state to investigate his company's affairs.

The Court of Appeal so stated in dismissing an appeal by the director, David Austin McCormick, from the decision of the Justice Secretary on December 19, 1997 of his application for judicial review of the decision of the secretary of state dated May 21, 1997 confirming that he intended to use the transcripts of the evidence given by the director to inspectors appointed by her to investigate and report on the affairs of his company, Atlantic Computers plc and its subsidiary, Atlantic Systems plc. The director had sought an order of certiorari to quash that decision and a declaration that it was unlawful.

Mr Matthew Rogers for Mr McCormick; Mr Colin Kaye, QC and Mr James Eadie for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE MORRITT said that the grounds for the application stemmed from the decision of the European Court of Human Rights in *Saunders v United Kingdom* (*The Times* December 18, 1996; [1997] BCC 872).

The prosecution had relied on the answers given by Mr Saunders to the inspectors before he was charged with the offences for which he was prosecuted. Mr Saunders was convicted and his appeal was dismissed.

He then applied to the European Court of Human Rights claiming that the use of such answers was an infringement of article 6.1 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1953) (Cmd 9099). His complaint was upheld.

In consequence of and since that decision, the secretary of state formed and applied a policy of not using against the accused in criminal proceedings transcripts of compelled evidence given by him to inspectors before or after he was charged.

It was not disputed that director disqualification proceedings did

not involve a "criminal charge" as those words were used and understood in the domestic law of England.

But it was common ground that the question would have to be determined in accordance with the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights. However as the European Convention had not yet been incorporated into the domestic law of England the court was not concerned with the direct application of article 6.1.

The relevance of the point was its impact on the proper exercise of the secretary of state's power to use the transcripts of the evidence of the director.

If it were clear that the proceedings did involve a criminal charge then prima facie such power should be exercised so as to give effect to the obligations of the United Kingdom in such a case rather than in breach of them.

Counsel for the director said that it was clear. His Lordship did not accept that submission.

It was established by the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights that if the domestic law classified the proceedings as criminal then they must be treated as involving a criminal charge for the purpose of article 6.1.

If the proceedings were not so classified then the question would depend on the nature and severity of the penalty to which those who committed the relevant act made themselves liable.

The combination of several decisions of the European Court of Human Rights and a consideration of the nature and severity of a disqualification order appeared to his Lordship to cast very real doubt on the proposition that proceedings for such an order involved a criminal charge.

The disqualification order did not prevent the person subject to the terms carrying on any commercial activity in his own name save those of a receiver, liquidator or company promoter; its effect was to remove the privilege of doing so through a company with limited liability.

The consequences of the order were serious for the individual concerned and had been described as penal but they did not involve a deprivation of liberty, livelihood or property.

In his Lordship's judgment it was clear that the secretary of state was not bound in exercising her statutory powers to treat such proceedings as if they involved a criminal charge rather than the determination of civil rights and obligations.

Counsel for the director submitted in the alternative that as article 6.1 applied also to the determination of civil rights and obligations, the secretary of state was bound to follow the same procedure in such proceedings as she applied to proceedings involving a criminal charge.

His Lordship did not accept that submission either. It was true that in each case the person in question was entitled to a "fair and public hearing". But the requirement of fairness did not necessarily require the same treatment in civil cases as in criminal. That was clear recognised in the decision of the European Court of Human Rights in *Dombo Beheer BV v Th Netherlands* ([1993] Series A N 274/3).

Moreover, it was apparent that the decision of the European Court of Human Rights in *Saunders* which led to the policy of the secretary of state with regard to the use of compelled evidence in criminal cases was inapplicable to civil cases.

There was no question of the use of the compelled evidence in disqualification proceedings involving any infringement of the right not to incriminate oneself unless the issue in the proceedings involved a criminal charge. But, as his Lordship had already decided, the secretary of state was not bound to exercise her discretion on the basis that it did.

In any event the use of the processes of discovery and interrogatories involved the use of compelled evidence in civil proceedings because of the rules of court which permitted them. But those rules were designed to produce a fair trial.

It would not be sensible to allow the evidence independent of the will of the person in question in the written report and any documents produced to the inspectors by the witness but exclude the witness's explanation of the latter which justified an opinion or fact set out in the former.

Given that the secretary of state was not bound to exercise her discretion on the footing that disqualification proceedings involved not a criminal charge but the determination of a civil right and obligation, his Lordship saw no reason why she should conclude that a fair hearing required her to abstain from using the director's evidence in the proceedings.

Lord Justice Walker agreed and Sir Christopher Staughton delivered a concurring judgment. Solicitors: Peters & Peters; Treasury Solicitor.

# Burden on Revenue

**Hurley v Taylor (Inspector of Taxes)**

Before Mr Justice Park [Judgment January 20]

On an appeal by a taxpayer against extended time limit assessments under section 36 of the Taxes Management Act 1970, the burden of proving a loss of tax attributable to fraud or negligent conduct by the taxpayer lay on the Revenue.

The burden was not discharged by the commissioners, who, while not rejecting the taxpayer's explanation of deficiencies shown in capital statements, did not accept it either.

Mr Justice Park so held in the Chancery Division allowing an appeal by Mr Anthony C. Hurley from part of the determination by Bromley general commissioners relating to back duty assessments to Schedule D income tax for years from 1983 to 1987.

Mr G. R. A. Argles for the taxpayer; Mr Bruce Carr for the Revenue.

MR JUSTICE PARK said that the Revenue could discharge the section 36 burden simply by capital statements showing that the

taxpayer had more money to spend than his declared income suggested.

Whether that burden was so discharged depended on the taxpayer tendering any explanation of the deficiencies and, if he did, on how the commissioners viewed his explanation. If he advanced an explanation but the commissioners rejected it, that is, they positively disbelieved it, the capital statements by themselves could discharge the burden.

But if the taxpayer advanced an explanation but the commissioners, while not rejecting it, did not accept it either, that is they were not satisfied on the balance of probabilities that it was untrue but not satisfied on the balance of probabilities that it was true either, the capital statements by themselves were not sufficient.

In such circumstances the commissioners' decision might be challenged by the Revenue on appeal to the High Court but only on the grounds laid down by the House of Lords in *Edwards v Bairstow* ([1956] AC 14).

Solicitors: T. G. Baynes & Sons, Orpington; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

# Special needs power limited

**G v Wakefield City Metropolitan District Council and Another**

Before Mr Justice Laws [Judgment January 29]

In considering whether proper provision had been made for a child's needs the Special Educational Needs Tribunal had no power to consider domestic circumstances or conditions unless those matters related directly to a child's learning difficulties.

Mr Justice Laws so held in dismissing G's appeal against the decision of the Special Educational Needs Tribunal of February 19, 1997 not to amend her daughter's statement of special educational needs so as to specify the use of a residential special school.

G was the mother of a severely disabled child. She had found it difficult to provide necessary care for her daughter because of her own disability and because voluntarily provided weekend respite care for her daughter was no longer available.

Although the tribunal had concluded in its decision that residential education was necessary, it did say that in its absence the local

education authority should make a request under section 322 of the Education Act 1996 for respite care provision from the local authority's social services department.

Section 322 provides: "(1) Where it appears to a local education authority that any health authority or local authority could, by taking any specified action, help in the exercise of any of their functions under this Part, they may request the help of the authority, specifying the action in question."

Mr John Friel for G; Lord Campbell of Alloway, QC and Mr Lachlan Wilson for the local authority; the tribunal did not appear.

MR JUSTICE LAWS said that Mr Friel had submitted that the tribunal's decision was flawed by a want of procedural fairness, because the possible deployment of section 322 was not raised at the hearing or at any other stage, so that the first the appellant knew of the tribunal's reference to section 322 was beyond any issue cognisable in the appeal, since any provision of respite care by social

services would not amount to educational provision designed to meet special educational needs and would therefore fall outside the matters to which, alone, the tribunal could direct its consideration under section 326 of the 1996 Act.

It was obvious to his Lordship that the concepts of "learning difficulty" and "special educational provision" were not tightly defined. What was clear was that measures taken by a local education authority to meet a child's special educational needs would be directly related to the child's learning difficulties.

Economic problems faced by the child's parents, where, for example, different and perhaps more complex learning difficulties would in an ideal world be suitable for the family because of the child's physical disability, were not ordinarily within the remit of the tribunal.

Nor were difficulties associated with a parent's disability where the effect was that the child was, in physical terms, more difficult to look after. Such problems would fall to be dealt with not under the 1996 Act but, so far as they might, be met by public provision, under social welfare legislation.

As a matter of common sense and ordinary human experience conditions in the home were almost always bound to have some effect, for better or worse, on a child's learning capacity and educational chances.

That was a general fact of family life but for present purposes it had to be distinguished from circumstances, which it was clearly possible to envisage, where some kinds of day to day domestic problems directly affected the child's learning difficulties. Such direct relation had to be shown in order to involve such problems in the tribunal's jurisdiction under section 326.

Given the tribunal's conclusion that the child was getting more than satisfactory education at her present school it seemed to his Lordship that the reference to section 322 constituted a recommendation for action that would be outside special educational provision.

In those circumstances, his Lordship did not consider that Mr Friel's argument that the tribunal decision was vitiated by want of fairness was made out.

Solicitors: Ridley & Hall, Huddersfield; Mr James Holt, Wakefield.

# Risk of injustice over inference from failure to testify

**Regina v Birchall**

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Garland and Mr Justice Rix [Judgment January 20]

The requirement that the jury had to be satisfied that the prosecution had established a case to answer was an essential precondition to their drawing any inference from a defendant's failure to testify under section 35 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.

Where therefore a judge failed to direct the jury on that precondition, either in the terms of the standard direction (see *R v Cowan* ([1996] QB 373) or in similar terms, a clear risk of injustice arose.

The Court of Appeal so stated in allowing an appeal by Keith Birchall against his conviction for murder before Mr Justice Latham and a jury at Nottingham in March 1996. The court concluded that the judge's omission to direct the jury on that precondition was a material error which rendered the conviction unsafe. The Crown did not seek a retrial.

In *Cowan* (at pp379 and 381) the Court of Appeal had considered and approved a model direction promulgated by the judicial studies board in relation to, *inter alia*, "essential (4)" which required that

the jury had to have found there to be a case to answer on the prosecution evidence before drawing an adverse inference from the defendant's silence.

Mr Roy Amlot, QC, Mr Anthony Jennings and Mr David Emanuel for Mr Birchall; Mr Peter Joyce, QC and Mr Avrik Mukherjee for the prosecution.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the Crown accepted that the judge had erred in directing the jury on "essential (4)" but had contended that the omission was immaterial because there was plainly a prima facie case.

His Lordship said that the court was reluctant to commiserate the view that direction of a jury called for the pronouncing of a number of mandatory formulae, and departure by a trial judge from a prescribed form of words would by no means always justify the upping of a jury's verdict.

Standard directions were, however, devised to serve the ends of justice and the court had to be astute to ensure that those ends were not jeopardised by failure to give directions where they were called for.

The drawing of inferences from silence was a particularly sensitive area. Many respected judges had voiced the fear that section 35

of the Act might lead to wrongful convictions.

It seemed possible that the application of those provisions could lead to decisions adverse to the United Kingdom at Strasbourg under articles 6(1) and 6(2) of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1953) (Cmd 9099) unless those provisions were the subject of carefully framed directions to juries.

Inescapably, a judge demanded that the jury should start to consider whether to draw inferences from a defendant's failure to give oral evidence at his trial until they had concluded that the Crown's case against him was sufficiently compelling to call for an answer by the defendant.

What was called "essential (4)" in *Cowan* was correctly described as such. There was a clear risk of injustice if the requirements of logic and fairness in that respect were not observed.

The court considered whether the judge's omission had rendered the jury's verdict unsafe and, having reviewed the evidence, including new material received on the appeal, concluded that the conviction was unsafe and should be quashed.

Solicitors: Mr Kate Akhurst, CPS, Nottingham.

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# Foreign supplies deemed taxable for VAT

**Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Liverpool School of Performing Arts**

Before Mr Justice Carnwath [Judgment January 29]

When a person who made taxable supplies and out of country supplies which would be taxable if made in the UK, wished to determine the attribution of input tax to those supplies under Part V of the Value Added Tax (General Regulations) (SI 1985 No 380), the out of country supplies were to be treated as "taxable supplies" within the meaning of regulation 30(2) even though under the Value Added Tax Act 1983, they were not taxable supplies as such.

Mr Justice Carnwath, sitting as an additional judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held in a reserved judgment in dismissing an appeal by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise against a decision of a VAT tribunal on October 10, 1996 in respect of a ruling of the commissioners that certain supplies made by the taxpayer, Liverpool School of Performing Arts were not to be treated as taxable supplies for the purpose of calculating the deductible proportion of input tax.

Mr Nicholas Paines, QC, for the commissioners; Mr Richard Barlow, instructed by Pannell Kerr Forster, accountants, for the taxpayer.

MR JUSTICE CARNWATH said that Liverpool School of Performing Arts was not to be treated as taxable supplies for the purpose of calculating the deductible proportion of input tax.

advertising and publicity. A large part of the supplies were made before LIPA registered for VAT.

Between March and May 1993 the only supplies made were out of country supplies to Germany. Between June 1993 and May 1995 LIPA made both out of country and in country supplies.

From June 1995, LIPA made taxable, out of country and exempt supplies.

The dispute concerned the correct treatment of the input tax attributable to LIPA's overheads.

His Lordship reviewed the relevant English legislation and set out regulations 30 and 32 of the 1985 Regulations.

The commissioners had contended that regulation 32 was a self-contained code dealing with out of country supplies input tax attributable to such supplies was ascertained by reference to the extent of use of the goods or services in question. What was left was then subject to apportionment between taxable and exempt supplies in accordance with regulation 30. For that purpose it was accepted that the reference to "all taxable supplies" in paragraph 30(1)(d) had to be read as referring to taxable and exempt supplies only, and not including out of country supplies.

The taxpayer had contended that regulations 30 and 32 were to be read together as parts of a single code, the effect of regulation 32 being simply to indicate how out of country supplies were to be taken into account in carrying out the regulation 30 calculations.

taxable supplies under regulation 30.

Thus, so far as supplies were wholly in respect of taxable or out of country supplies, the whole of the input tax was treated as attributable to taxable supplies under regulation 30(2)(b). In so far as it was partly so used, an apportionment was to be made in accordance with value under regulation 30(2)(d).

The tribunal had concluded that the taxpayer's construction was correct, and had formed the clear view that out of country supplies which would have been treated as taxable supplies had they been made in the UK, were for all input tax purposes to be treated as taxable supplies made in the UK.

If one confined oneself to the domestic legislation it would be difficult to conclude that the answer was as clear as the tribunal had suggested. Each construction contained force for the parties involved reading the words of regulation 30 in something other than their ordinary meaning.

Furthermore, each construction involved finding a link between regulation 30 and 32 which was not in terms expressed in the legislation.

However, the statutory references which the tribunal had made in its decision to references to the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights (77/388/EEC) (OJ 1977 L242/1), on which the UK legislation was based, it was clearly right to have regard to the Directive as an aid to construction, and where possible to construe the regulations in accordance with that scheme. His Lordship set out the relevant parts of articles 17 and 19

of the Directive. There were clear parallels between the scheme of those provisions and the scheme of the regulations. The scheme of the Directive seemed to correspond more closely to the taxpayer's interpretation.

The normal rule embodied in articles 17(1) to (3) and 19 was that out of country supplies were treated in precisely the same way as taxable supplies.

The fraction provided for in article 19 included transactions under both article 17(2) and (3), and thus, in United Kingdom terminology, included both taxable supplies and out of country supplies.

Thus, one would normally expect to find the standard rule, as embodied in regulation 30 of the English legislation, treating taxable supplies and out of country supplies on the same basis for the purposes of the fraction; and if any derogation were to be made from that under the provision to article 17(5), it would be clearly expressed as such derogation, for example by stating specifically that the general rule was "subject to the later provision".

The substance of any such specific words suggested that regulation 32 was ancillary to regulation 30 and simply designed to ensure that out of country supplies were in the same way as taxable supplies.

That meant treating the words "taxable supplies" in regulation 30(2)(b) in other than its ordinary sense. But the commissioners' approach would also have involved some rewriting of the paragraph.

Solicitors: Solicitors, Customs and Excise.

RACING: FORMIDABLE RAIDING PARTY BEING ASSEMBLED TO CHALLENGE FOR FESTIVAL PRIZES

Irish scent record Cheltenham haul

By CHRIS McGRATH

TEN years ago, as the Irish might have put it themselves, the situation had become desperate - but not serious. They still recognised in the Cheltenham Festival a compulsory test of endurance for liver and wallops. Those three mad March days still owed much to their dramatic pilgrimage. The trouble was that their contribution was no longer being rewarded. In 1987, ten years after returning with a record seven winners, they managed just one. The same was true the following year, and then in 1989 things reached rock bottom with a whitewash. There were a bare couple to follow, and - if they celebrated bravely - it remained very much a wake. How sweet, then, is this new awakening. During those dark days, the Irish could not afford to keep their most promising young horses "silly" because they will be offered by the patron of fashionable Lambourn yards. Since the turn of the decade, however, they can seemingly afford to be silly themselves. They turned the corner in 1993, with half a dozen winners; two years ago, they matched the record of 1977. Last year, they rather trod water with three. This time, however, there is unprecedented strength in depth. Auspiciously, the Festival opens on March 17, St Patrick's Day. Even with the handicaps as yet unframed, a strong case can be made for backing a record with Coral. Eight winners is quoted at 14-1, with 25-1 against nine.

and -40-1 against ten. The turning of the tide is vividly demonstrated by the same prize being available against a whitewash; five winners is favoured at 4-1. The betting ring's heavy artillery will be trained on the first race of the meeting, the Citroen Supreme Novices' Hurdle. His Song is being viewed as a banker - after ridding Istabraq in the Irish Champion Hurdle, though Native Estates looked a solid alternative at Leopardstown on Sunday. Istabraq himself lived up to the name of the horse.

banker status as a novice last season, and now strives to do so again in the Smurfit Champion Hurdle itself. Also on the opening card, Hill Society is among the fancies for the Guinness Arkle Trophy, while Papillon's successful reconnaissance last month gave a due to the Irish potential in the seven Festival handicaps. Success in the opening exchanges, however, would serve principally to ensure that Cotswold pubs echo with even bolder talk about the horse already prompting bra-

zen comparisons with the incomparable Arkle. William Hill offers a distile 5-4 against Florida Pearl winning the Royal Sun Alliance Chase on the Wednesday, though he must travel half a mile further than when fending off Boss Doyle on Sunday. Florida Pearl won the Champion Bumper last year, and the Irish are confident of preserving their domination of this event. Willie Mullins, indeed, is seeking a third consecutive success with Hotel Tuskar, a 15-length winner at Fairyhouse last month. Another who has already flourished up the Cheltenham hill is Klairon Davis, who attempts to retrieve the Queen Mother Champion Chase, while the four-mile National Hunt Chase has always attracted a strong challenge. Elegant Lord, who also limbered up impressively on Sunday, has already outclassed one field for the Christies Foodwater Chase, while the third day also sees numerous battle-hardened contenders for the Rite Club Triumph Hurdle. Then there is Dorans Pride in the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup.

The sponsor yesterday dangled a carrot of 100-1 against the Irish winning all three championship events, with individual "team" quotes of 9-4 in the Champion Hurdle (ladbrokes offers just 2-1 against Istabraq on his own); 9-2 in the Champion Chase; and 9-2 in the Gold Cup. As Rob Hartnett, its spokesman, said: "This year, nothing seems impossible."



Florida Pearl is one of the leading lights of a powerful Irish team for Cheltenham

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market

GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES. Table with columns for race name, horse name, and odds. Races include Graphic Equilateral, Kevani, Babilator, Courtmarche Court, etc.

WITH the defection of Rainier, Shadow Leader and Marello at yesterday's five-day acceptance stage, the weights for Saturday's Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury have risen by 21lb. The Irish are mounting a strong challenge to win the £100,000-added race for the first time since Irish Fashion in 1976, with five of the 18 possible runners. Graphic Equilateral was most impressive in winning the Ladbrokes Hurdle at Leopardstown last month, and has to be respected with just a 4th penalty. There is a good chance that he has improved since his last start at Leopardstown, and will have to overcome totally different conditions if he is to relieve the bookmakers of more sponsorship money. Courtmarche Court was ante-post favourite for the Ladbrokes, but was withdrawn after falling to scuffle on the home gallops. A last-minute 8-2, he will go well if in the same heart as when winning at Leopardstown in December. Given the forecast of a dry week, best of the home runners may be Caristo Brigante and Nehruwaki, who were untested by the soft ground when third and seventh behind Shahrar in the Lanzarote at Kempton last month. Nahruwaki had earlier finished second to Major James in a hot contest at Sandown, and makes strong appeal at 25-1 with the Tote, who are offering a non-runner, no bet concession. However, preference is for Caristo Brigante. His trainer, Paul Webster, said yesterday: "He's in good form and a drying week will suit him well. The weights going up is good news for Robert Thornton, who takes the ride." Winner of the Imperial Cup last season, CARISTO BRIGANTE should be backed at 15-1 now that he has returned to form.

THUNDERER. Table with columns for race name, horse name, and odds. Races include 1.50 Althea, 2.20 Supreme Lady, 2.50 Susum Corda.

GOING: GOOD. TOTE JACKPOT MEETING. SIS. 1.50 BYTON JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE. Table with columns for race name, horse name, and odds.

2.20 MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES HURDLE. Table with columns for race name, horse name, and odds.

2.50 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE. Table with columns for race name, horse name, and odds.

FORM FOCUS. Text providing analysis of horses and races.

RACE LINE. WARWICK CARLISLE LINGFIELD GROUND SERVICES. Table with columns for horse name and odds.

3.20 GEORGE CONEY CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE. Table with columns for race name, horse name, and odds.

3.50 EBRINGTON HANDICAP HURDLE. Table with columns for race name, horse name, and odds.

4.20 AIR WEDDING TROPHY HUNTERS CHASE. Table with columns for race name, horse name, and odds.

4.50 FEBRUARY MARES ONLY MAIDEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE. Table with columns for race name, horse name, and odds.

4.00 DUNGENESS POINT CLAIMING STAKES. Table with columns for race name, horse name, and odds.

COURSE SPECIALISTS. Table with columns for horse name, jockey, and odds.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS. Fontwell Park. Table with columns for race name, horse name, and odds.

2.10 TOTE NOVICES CHASE. Table with columns for race name, horse name, and odds.

2.40 POLYFOR NOVICES HURDLE. Table with columns for race name, horse name, and odds.

2.40 LINGFIELD PARK. Table with columns for race name, horse name, and odds.

3.00 BISHOPS ROCK CONDITIONS STAKES. Table with columns for race name, horse name, and odds.

3.00 BISHOPS ROCK CONDITIONS STAKES. Table with columns for race name, horse name, and odds.

3.10 KINGMOOR HANDICAP CHASE. Table with columns for race name, horse name, and odds.

3.40 HETHERSHELL CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE. Table with columns for race name, horse name, and odds.

4.10 JAMES HALSTEAD HANDICAP CHASE. Table with columns for race name, horse name, and odds.

4.40 DUNDAR INTERMEDIATE NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE. Table with columns for race name, horse name, and odds.

3.30 DUNSTON HEDD MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES. Table with columns for race name, horse name, and odds.

4.00 EDDYSTONE HANDICAP. Table with columns for race name, horse name, and odds.



Winter Olympic Games: Curlers begin their medal quest as the weather takes its toll of events

Britain quartet roar out their challenge

Schedules buried under new blizzard

FROM ROB HUGHES CHIEF SPORTS WRITER IN NAGANO

THE Emperor Akhito has returned to the warmth of his palace in Tokyo. The blizzards in the Japanese alps have delayed the downhill, possibly even until next Monday. High winds have deprived the ski jumpers of valuable practice time.

Why did we come to Japan, the most southerly place to hold a Winter Games, where the weather is notoriously fickle, the events hard to carry through?

Who cares? Down to Karuzawa we go, the Bullet train our carriage, the indoor rink our destination, and curling our focus.

Kirsty Hay skipped the all-Scottish Great Britain women's team to a first-round victory against Japan — who finished fourth in the world championships — recovering from a 4-1 deficit at the halfway mark to win 7-5.



Denmark, the world bronze medal-winners were in less generous mood in the evening, inflicting a 9-3 defeat on Hay's team and taking the edge off her 26th birthday celebrations.

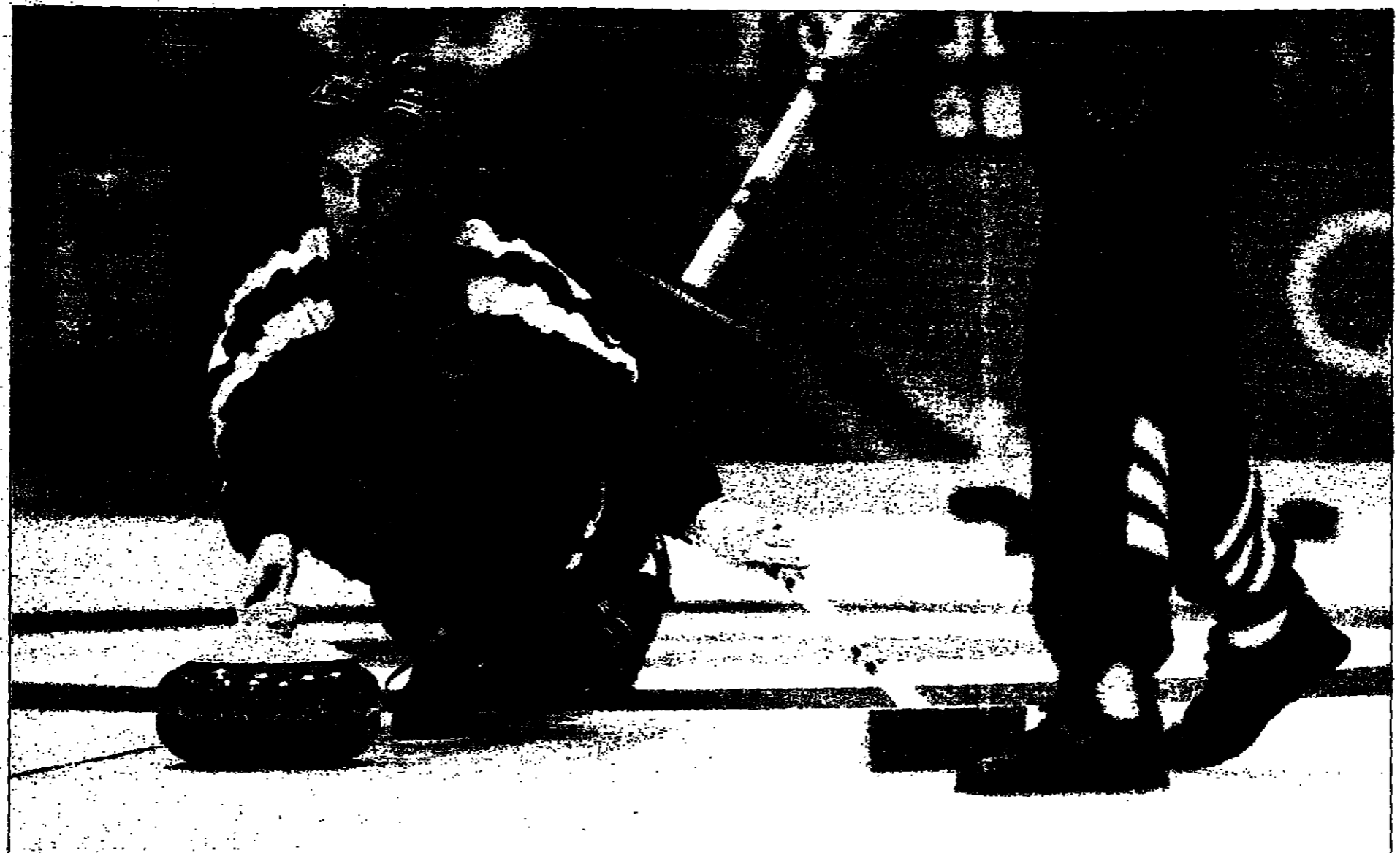
But by then, the men, also Scotsmen every one, had outwitted Norway, who were skipped by Egil Ramsfield, the world's most successful exponent of "chess on ice". If Britain have a medal prospect at the XVIII Winter Olympics it is in men's curling.

Karuzawa is a soothing retreat. It is a resort boasting the distinction of being the only place to host summer and winter Olympic sports — showjumping during the Tokyo Olympics of 1964, curling today.

The curlers have their own separate Olympic villages, closer-knit than the thousands in Nagano. They have a game that inspires comradeship and guile. Played the way that RAF Flight Lieutenant Douglas Dryburgh, the Great Britain skip, and his squad perform, it is a contest of wit in aggression and passion. I admit to becoming a convert. These competitors enjoy an esprit de corps foreign to the multimillionaires from the National Hockey League here to play their trade.

Curlers work by day, practice and play by night, and when Dryburgh's quartet went to victory more than the Norwegian four, even Ramsfield, an architect who has three times been world champion, you share the unabashed belief that gold is possible.

Ramsfield was quick to concede after his team succumbed that this was a key encounter. By now, Britain will have been further tested by Switzerland and by tonight they will have met Canada, who boast more players than any of the curling nations.



Hay, the Great Britain skip, is a study in concentration as she plays her part in the first-round victory over Japan yesterday. Photograph: Doug Pensinger/Allsport

It is certain that the country that formed the Royal Caledonian Curling Club will leave a mark on these Games. Princess Anne, together with Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport, passed up their invitation to see the first game of curling as an official Olympic sport, preferring to salute Georg Hackl.

Who resigned to defeat? "I guess even if he had worn snowboots he would lead." Back on the ice came the sounds of the incoherent movement of the broomsticks, polishing a path in front of the stones, and the vernacular of the Scots, who unlike Calligore, were resigned to no such outcome. Like most sportsmen, they let rip with agricultural language and because they are wired up to microphones, they had to be asked by CBC, the Canadian television, to broadcast the curling, to cool it.

Cool? The Scots are quite in control when they glide granite stones so heavy that two of them outweigh Midori Ito, the diminutive ice skater who, even now, glows with pride at having had the final hand on the Olympic torch at the opening ceremony. Curling is known as the roaring game, which is strange for something which looks like the ice cousin of bowls. Dryburgh is concentration personified. Ronnie MacIver is full of Celtic fire and the brothers Peter and Phil Wilson exclaim animatedly. The

desire of these men to win a medal is tangible. The BBC has broken new ground. For the first time in its seven decades it has shown curling live, albeit from midnight to around 3am. The crowds here are always capacity, with only 1,700 permitted, and while Hay was telling her team to "take our fingers out", a ticket tout from London, making enough profit to employ a Japanese translator, was admitting the locals to the ancient art of black market profiteering. In the hall, Dryburgh

admitted Britain had picked off the nervous errors of Norway. "But make no mistake, we know it will be a bright night if we are to achieve what we want." Britain's victory came dramatically when Pete Wilson, in the tense final end, so precisely directed and weighted his two Norwegian stones, and dropped his own in the very centre of the house — a shot that would, in other sports, be described as a bullseye. Outside the air was clear, the temperature sharp, and

three young American women were queuing for the train to Nagano. Their team had been beaten by Sweden, but the wives could offer no comfort. "We are not allowed in the camp," said one. "We're forbidden to coexist with them. They think we'd put our men off their game." These lonely women and no doubt those far away in Scotland, share the experience that this, the oldest of Olympic disciplines, demands sacrifice and as much total obsession as any other sport. It's tough being an Olympian.

Curling up for a night of unfulfilled passion

The wrong sort of snow has fallen. Serves them right for trying to hold a sporting event at this time of year, that's what I say. That is the trouble with winter sports. People will insist on playing them when they know the weather will be at its worst.

Now this does not matter one way or another to you or me. Any day now, presumably, there will be chaps sliding about on little planks and we will either catch it and enjoy it or we won't. It is always a nice event to watch. But if we miss it, most of us will be able to take the disappointment in our stride.

But if you are trying to sell an event, rather than merely enjoy it, you have a problem. And if you are trying to sell an event whose hold on the national, or for that matter the international, imagination is at best tenuous, then you are going to be fretting. Olympic organisers and television people are doing some very serious fretting. Please let it stop snowing, or else let the big-time skating start!

Downhill skiing may not be the greatest sport in the world, but it is highly dashing and makes lovely pictures. The Olympic event, four years in the gestation, is always worth an hour of anybody's time. But instead, the Olympic night-

watch was filled with women's curling; and it is a hard thing to sell that to the uncommitted. Great Britain took on Japan and it was war to the knife. I quickly developed a passion for the Japanese skip, swooping like an eagle across the ice with all the anguish and intensity of a character in a Kurosawa film. But in the nature of things, curling passions are fleeting things for most of us.

The contest turned out to be a tight one, but basically it brought out one of the important truths of the sporting life: that sport is only incidentally entertaining. At heart, sport is a private matter between people trying to win something by whatever means they can. The audience are always interlopers, eavesdroppers and voyeurs.



As I write these words in the Suffolk sunshine, I hear the first blackbird singing this year. What a delight it is, not to be in a place with the wrong sort of snow. To travel across the world in order to seek foul weather is flying in the face of nature. Birds migrate from winter, surely humans should do the same.

To seek the snow is a deeply perverse thing to do. And you can hardly complain if you seek snow and then find it. Sorry, world. We can't bring you the snow events, because it's snowing. So it was that the Winter Olympics began not with a bang but a whimper. The men's downhill was postponed, then all the other alpine events went the same way.

But television, and therefore the powers in sport, are always desperate for sport to be entertaining. They need to catch the uncommitted. And instead of daring young men carving up a mountain in sprayed-on suits, we had an attritional curling match that even had the commentators apologising. Somebody might slide a stone in a slightly different way. "And that's what curling gets interesting." Which is good news for us all.

The trouble with the Winter Olympics is that the programme is a little thin at the very best of times. And when the wrong sort of snow starts falling, the full slowness of the event is laid bare. The emperor has no skin-tight clothes. So they

chucked in a bit of ladies' moguls. "Women's moguls have gone up by leaps and bounds." And there was a bit of women's ice hockey, in which Canada beat Japan 13-0. That is as it should be: ice hockey was invented so that Canadians could excel at something.

I remember four years ago there was a gun accident in an American household. A man was watching the ice hockey from the Winter Olympics and holding a pistol as he did so. Like you do. "I got so excited I accidentally shot myself," he said. He was taken to hospital with a gunshot wound in his leg. There is a moral to this story, but I am not quite sure what it is. Perhaps it is that great events excite great passions. I just hope that no one was watching the ladies' curling with a loaded pistol to hand, that's all.

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Candid England captain talks about Owen, Sutton, Stevenage and his joy at return to squad

# Shearer delighted to practise his sharp shooting

By Oliver Holt, Football Correspondent

MICHAEL OWEN handled it all with aplomb, as we had been told he would. Nothing is supposed to phase him and nothing did. Like a young Alan Shearer in that respect, people always say. Only yesterday, Shearer departed from the script. He was not like an old Michael Owen at all. Not non-committal but feisty, not studiously non-controversial but opinionated. Not bland but animated. And most of all, glad to be back.

If the arrival of Owen has been greeted with the same fervour as the performance of a first symphony from a brilliant new composer, so the return of Shearer has been met with the kind of delight that comes with the public display of an Old Master hidden for an age from public view. One brings virgin excitement, the other the thrill of a talent in full bloom.

Yesterday, at Bisham Abbey, it was as though it was all new to the England captain again, as if it were his first call-up to the squad, just as it was Owen's. He has played a part in six games for Newcastle United now, since

his return from the severe ankle injury that threatened his career and kept him inactive for six months. The unexpected gift of involvement in the squad for the international against Chile at Wembley tomorrow night has invigorated him as if it were a great gulp of nectar.

So happy is he to be playing a part that he could not hide his astonishment at the fact that his former Blackburn Rovers team-mate, Chris Sutton, a colleague with whom, admittedly, he never enjoyed the warmest of relationships, had turned his back on the chance of playing for the England B team at The Hawthorns tonight.

"I was very surprised when I heard about his decision," Shearer said. "I am sure he has got his own reasons for doing it but for me, to throw away the chance of playing for your country, I cannot understand it. Four months ago, when I was just starting my rehabilitation from the injury, I would have given anything to represent England."

"I have been told I will not be starting the game tomorrow, but I sincerely hope to play some part in it. I need matches now. I am fit as I am ever going to be from doing stamina work and long running, but I need games to get match fit. I am not 100 per cent yet but I am getting there. There is just a bit of sharpness still to come back."

"There is an enthusiasm about me now that I cannot help because I have missed the last six months of football and I am so happy to be back playing at whatever level. If there is a positive thing to take out of being out for such a long time, it is that I will only have played half a season and hopefully that will be a benefit to me."

Shearer, still smarting from the slough of uncommonly adverse publicity he received in the aftermath of Newcastle's FA Cup fourth-round replay victory over Stevenage Borough, explained that he had run off the pitch without swapping shirts after the second tie at St James Park because he had been summoned to an interview and the shirt had already been promised to "an extremely good cause".

He said he was over any of the mental barriers that might have accompanied such a long lay off. His first heavy tackle, with Paul Ince in a match against Liverpool, had left him with no ill-effects and he was raring to go. His only reservations, he said, were about whether he would make it into the team given the quality of the other candidates.

He said that Owen was "special", that Andy Cole was revelling in the extra responsibility given him now that Eric Cantona had left Manchester United and that Alex Ferguson was fortunate indeed to have two such gifted front players as Teddy Sheringham and Paul Scholes.

And then, to wind things up, Shearer gave one last indication of his new mood. Somebody asked him about his injury and, sternly, he corrected them. "My old injury, you mean," he said.

England are already facing logistical difficulties in trying to work out how to cope with the large number of staff that they want to take to the World Cup in France this summer, as well as on the pre-tournament trips to Morocco and Spain. As well as the players, the party will also include at least 20 members of the support team, including coaches, masseurs, doctors, administrators and a chef.

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He said he was over any of the mental barriers that might have accompanied such a long lay off. His first heavy tackle, with Paul Ince in a match against Liverpool, had left him with no ill-effects and he was raring to go. His only reservations, he said, were about whether he would make it into the team given the quality of the other candidates.

He said that Owen was "special", that Andy Cole was revelling in the extra responsibility given him now that Eric Cantona had left Manchester United and that Alex Ferguson was fortunate indeed to have two such gifted front players as Teddy Sheringham and Paul Scholes.

And then, to wind things up, Shearer gave one last indication of his new mood. Somebody asked him about his injury and, sternly, he corrected them. "My old injury, you mean," he said.

England are already facing logistical difficulties in trying to work out how to cope with the large number of staff that they want to take to the World Cup in France this summer, as well as on the pre-tournament trips to Morocco and Spain. As well as the players, the party will also include at least 20 members of the support team, including coaches, masseurs, doctors, administrators and a chef.



Fowler found fame and fortune early. Now he is more streetwise and able to cope with the first slump in his career

## FA seeks guidance on counselling players

By Matt Dickinson

THERE have been occasions when Glenn Hoddle appears to have spent more time counselling than coaching his England squad. So much so, in fact, that he is encouraging the Football Association to employ a full-time shoulder for the players to cry on.

The recruitment of a counsellor has been discussed at Lancaster Gate in the light of the increasing number of players who have been advised, or on several occasions forced, to turn to professional help to overcome off-field problems.

Hoddle is understood to be the principal backer of such an appointment, and it will come as little surprise to his players who know first-hand his belief in the ways of faith healing.

Robbie Fowler was the latest to be encouraged to visit Eileen Drewery, a 57-year-old from Wokingham, who helped the England coach to develop his spiritualist approach to curing injuries and dealing with personal traumas. As a Tottenham Hotspur player, Hoddle talked of a

strain being healed by Drewery's powers of concentration and relaxation, and Paul Ince, Paul Gascoigne and Darren Anderton are among the internationals understood to have been advised to take advantage of her unusual methods.

As well as being able to provide motivation for top players, a candidate for a counselling post would have to be able to deal with a wide range of misdemeanours. The England party contains rehabilitating alcoholics, drink drivers, a reformed drug-taker and an alleged wife-beater, while Ian Wright, has undergone rage counselling.

England are already facing logistical difficulties in trying to work out how to cope with the large number of staff that they want to take to the World Cup in France this summer, as well as on the pre-tournament trips to Morocco and Spain. As well as the players, the party will also include at least 20 members of the support team, including coaches, masseurs, doctors, administrators and a chef.

## Fowler promises to strike back

David Maddock on the forward suffering from smears and rejection

CLOSE UP. Robbie Fowler presents a rather more striking image than most newspaper readers would suspect. In muddy newspaper photographs he has an open-mouthed, thick-set appearance. In reality, he is more angular, his dark features illuminated by a shy, handsome smile.

The smile is used to add a touch of irony when he reflects on life at the moment. "Things are going just great for me just now, aren't they," he said. For the first time on his magic-carpet ride to fame and fortune, the Liverpool forward has experienced some turbulence. His form has dipped and even the assured touch that brought him 30 goals in each of the past three seasons has temporarily deserted him.

That is not all. Fowler was portrayed as greedy after it was reported that he is asking for £50,000 a week in contract negotiations. This week, despite a goal on his last international outing, he will be training at Anfield while the players in two England squads — including Michael Owen, his precocious young partner — scrap for a place at the World Cup finals.

Worst of all, though, is a malicious rumour that has spread across Merseyside like a rash, linking him with drugs. One senses that if anything is getting Fowler down at the moment then it is this untruth. "I even had a letter from someone in Bristol, so it must have spread all the way down there," he said. "I know that most young footballers tend to be the target for these sort of ridiculous rumours, but it is annoying sometimes, even though it is so obviously a lie."

Fowler pointed out that he is a professional athlete with far too much at stake ever to take drugs. And yet the rumour persists, despite an overwhelming volume of evidence undermining its cruel assertion. Liverpool players are regularly screened under the Football Association programme and the FA unit will tell anyone prepared to listen that no one at the club has ever tested positive.

Also annoying, although he is far too diplomatic to suggest it, was the decision by Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, to omit him for the match against Chile tomorrow. Fowler does not believe that he was connected with his withdrawal from the party that took part in Le Tournoi in France last year in order to have an operation.

"When I was dropped, the manager telephoned me and said that it was simply a case of having a look at some other options," he said. "He said that when I am back to form, then I'll be back in the squad, and that's fair enough. I am no different from anyone else. If I am out of form, which comes out to all players at some time or other, then I have no divine right to be picked."

So why has his touch deserted him? Fowler offers two points in response. He said that he is still joint top-scorer at Anfield, despite having played fewer games than Owen, and that Liverpool — the defeat against Southampton on Saturday apart — are still winning.

## Merson in mood to take on the world

By Matt Dickinson

PAUL MERSON did not want to be drawn into the Chris Sutton affair. "Chris never said anything about me when I admitted the cocaine," was all he would say.

Five minutes later, and without mentioning Sutton's name, Merson had inadvertently given the most eloquent and intelligent explanation yet of why the Blackburn Rovers striker's decision not to play for England B against Chile tonight could prove to be the biggest regret of his career.

"Who would have thought Paul Gascoigne would go to the 1990 World Cup?" the Middleburgh striker asked. "He was playing in B games just a few months before and David Platt wasn't in the first team either. Yet they were the two big names to come out of the tournament."

"That is what everyone in the B squad has got to think. Football changes very quickly. Anything can happen in the next few months. And what more do you want than to be playing for England?"

So, while for Sutton the game at The Hawthorns tonight was to be a "hiding to nothing", for the former Arsenal player, 29 and with 15 caps to his name, it is a chance to catch Glenn Hoddle's eye and possibly, just possibly, snatch a place on the plane to the World Cup finals in France this summer.

Merson was named captain of the B team yesterday and it is unlikely that Hoddle will regard anyone else but him and Rio Ferdinand as potential candidates for the full squad this summer.

The England coach said recently that he is happier to risk a teenage striker — hence Michael Owen's senior call-up — than an inexperienced defender, hence Ferdinand's place in the reserves.

He may, however, give a glimpse of the future tonight by employing the West Ham United player in a sweeper's role, a position he had originally earmarked for Jamie Redknapp until the Liverpool player's withdrawal because of injury.

The classic sweeper system, with a playmaker behind a back four, is Hoddle's ideal strategy and one that he considered trying to implement in time for France this summer. That ambitious project appears to have been shelved, but the first trial run may be on show in the Midlands tonight.

ENGLAND B (possible 1-4-3-2): K. Peacock (Sheff Wed), P. Merson (Blackburn), M. Owen (Newcastle), D. Platt (Sheff Wed), M. Dyer (Sheff Wed), D. Meehan (Liverpool), R. Sedgwick (Aston Villa), M. Hill (Coventry City), N. O'Sullivan (Oxford Park Rangers), R. Parbour (Aston Villa), J. Wilson (Blackburn Rovers), P. Merson (Aston), D. Hutchings (Coventry City).

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## McMenemy has Irish at heart

IF Jack Charlton was casting a shadow over his press conference in Belfast yesterday, then Lawrence McMenemy did not mind one bit. Charlton is the man that McMenemy, who was being confirmed as the new manager of Northern Ireland, wants to emulate.

"I want to do for Northern Ireland what Jack Charlton did for the Republic of Ireland," McMenemy said. "Jack is a good friend of mine and he's from the same part of the country as me, the North East. It's my ambition to see Northern Ireland qualify for the European championships." In the short term, anyway.

With Pat Jennings and Joe Jordan acting as his assistants, McMenemy has become the first non-Irish manager of Northern Ireland. He first learnt of the Irish Football Association's (IFA) interest a month ago when he read a story linking him with the job on Teletext. A week later, Jim Boyce, the IFA president, made contact and McMenemy, the former Southampton manager and England No 2, confirmed that he was interested.

Boyce, who had headed the search for a successor to Bryan Hamilton, who was dismissed in October, had Charlton's achievements in mind when he opted for McMenemy. "This is a major step forward and it is the first time that the IFA has appointed a non-Irish manager and we feel the Northern Ireland public will be behind it," he said.

"If you look at other countries, like Switzerland, they were below us in the world rankings until they appointed Roy Hodgson, who took them to the World Cup finals. When



McMenemy: experience

## Uefa stands against Wimbledon proposal

WIMBLEDON'S hopes of moving to Dublin suffered a setback last night when Uefa, European football's governing body, announced that it would do everything that it can to stop them. In a statement, Uefa said: "We do not support such a move because of the damaging effect it would have on domestic football in European countries."

Furthermore, Uefa emphasises that in accordance with its statutes, football played within a national territory is the responsibility of the Uefa member association of the territory concerned. For this reason, Uefa is against any move to play domestic football outside a national territory.

Aston Villa will attempt to hasten the departure of Savo Milosevic after the striker refused to act as a substitute in the FA Carling Premiership game against Derby County last Saturday. Milosevic, placed on the transfer list for a spitting gesture towards Villa fans in January, told Brian Little, the manager, that he has no intention of appearing for the club again.

Little imposed a second heavy fine in a month, believed to be around £15,000. The contracts of all three run until the end of the European championship in 2000.

McMenemy will be at Northern Ireland's B international against the Republic of Ireland at Tolka Park on Wednesday. His first game in charge will be against Switzerland at Windsor Park on April 22, although the IFA are still trying to arrange a match for March 25.

## Animal passions rouse Brazilians into action

BRIAN GLANVILLE



Overseas View

AS BRAZIL slouch unconconvincingly towards some kind of victory in the egregious Gold Cup, Mario Zagallo, their anxious coach, has issued his players with a list of 14 demands. In Brazil itself, Pelé, now Minister for Sport, is, for the third time in his life, in deep potential trouble with his finances.

Having played like drains to draw with humble Jamaica and Guatemala, the Brazilians roused themselves on Sunday in Los Angeles to defeat El Salvador 4-0. The third and fourth goals came from Giovanni, of Barcelona. Edmundo and Romário got the others.

When Edmundo, alias "The Animal", returns to Florence, there is plainly trouble in store. This brilliant but violent player has made it clear that he is not content to sit on the Fiorentina bench, playing second fiddle to Gabriel Batistuta, of Argentina (to whom, however, he has paid generous tribute), and to Luis Oliveira, on whom he has poured scorn.

Ronaldo was not playing for Brazil against El Salvador, having fulfilled his stipulated quota of internationals, so could thus turn out at the San Siro for Internazionale against Bologna. However, he, like his team, had a poor game — the worst of the season, according to Gigi Simoni, the Inter coach — and Bologna beat them 1-0, the goal set up by Roberto Baggio, in fine form after their discord with Renato Ulivieri, the Bologna coach.

That Zagallo is uneasy is shown by his recourse to Edmundo, whom he seemed to have dropped after the player punched a Bolivian opponent in the last Copa

Pépé Gordo, a Spanish agent, who ran through the young star's money.

In the African nations' cup, there was a thrilling game played in Bobo Dioulasso between Ivory Coast and the new revelation of African football, the resilient Namibians. Not a bit demoralised by the fact that Ivory Coast went 3-0 up in the first half, two of the goals scored by Tshie, Namibia hit back after half-time, levelling at 3-3, two of their goals going to Shivute, a striker that European clubs will soon surely be counting. Alas for Namibia, Diabate got the winner for Ivory Coast five minutes from the end.

In Spain, both the big Madrid clubs are having trouble with an Italian star, Christian Vieri, the big international centre forward whom Juventus transferred so expensively to Atlético last summer, hates it there, will not go to restaurants with his team-mates and refuses to learn Spanish. Even Jesús Gil y Gil, the Atlético president, cannot reconcile Vieri to Spain and says he will decide what to do come the summer.

Christian Panucci, the right back who followed Fabio Capello last season from Milan to Real Madrid, is similarly, though unhappily and is as keen to return to AC Milan as Fabio Capello, who has gone back there himself, would be to get him.

Presumably, Napoli is on neither's list of preferred destinations. Bottom of Serie A, Napoli dismissed Giovanni Galeone, their coach, yesterday after less than three months in the job. He has been replaced by Vincenzo Montecuso, the club's junior team coach.



# Defeated coaches go in search of new way forward

One of rugby union's most famous messages remains that sent by Paul Roos, chairman of the South Africa selectors, to the 1997 touring team in New Zealand. It said simply: "Scrum, scrum, scrum". That area of the game remains as fundamental now as it was then, despite changes to the laws and various attempts to de-power the scrum for safety reasons.

If England and Ireland, losing sides on the first weekend of the Five Nations Championship, did not realise that before, then they do now. So many of England's troubles in Paris last Saturday could be traced back to an insecure scrum, while Ireland would surely have secured victory over Scotland had they been able to force home a series of five-metre scrums midway through the second half.

"I don't think we lost the game because of the scrum-mage," Clive Woodward, the England coach, said in the immediate aftermath of defeat by France. "Some of them went OK, at some we had problems, but I think we picked the right props." In that latter respect he is probably right. There is no evidence to suggest that any other English players would have made a better fist of handling Chris-tian Califano and Franck Tournaire, nor will they face the same kind of questions in their games against the three home unions.

The problem will not, however, go away. It is one that the British Isles had to overcome in South Africa last summer, when it was identified that Jason Leonard and Graham Rowntree might be unable to handle their opposite numbers, but that Paul Wallace and Tom Smith could. The Lions, driven by Jim Telfer, put down scrum after scrum in training, with the result that Wallace and Smith resolutely refused to take a backward step against much bigger opponents, Os du Randt and Adrian Garvey.

## DAVID HANDS



Rugby Union Commentary

they will also run up against Craig Dowd and Olo Brown, the New Zealand props who are as accomplished as any in the world. If they are to play Woodward's game of movement against those opponents, they must have a scrum that stands firm and that does not twist and contort as England did against the French.

The name of Rowntree will surely be discussed by the England management when they consider their XV to play Wales at Twickenham on February 21. The Leicester loose-head prop worked hard at his game over the Christmas per-

iod and seems far more likely to offer a running game than Jason Leonard, who has now won 60 England caps but whose form all season has fluctuated. If Leonard cannot secure his side of the scrum and does not contribute significantly in the loose, it may be time to contemplate an England scrum without him for the first time in eight years.

If the front five are operating to good effect, then England's back row as it is structured at present has a greater chance of surviving. The game on Saturday also suggested that, in the daylight

that the Five Nations sometimes becomes, the burlier physique of a specialist No 8 would be invaluable. It is worth remembering that, in the recent game between Saracens and Richmond, Tony Diprose opposed Scott Quinnell, who will surely be the Wales No 8 at Twickenham.

On that day Diprose scored two tries in Saracens' win and he is one of the form players of the moment — as is Tim Rodber, the Northampton No 8, who was kept off the England bench by a hamstring injury at the weekend. That there are circumstances in which the present back row of Lawrence Dallaglio, Richard Hill and Neil Back can play together is not in doubt, but the championship is not necessarily one of them.

Rodber, assuming he has recovered, offers experience and an abrasive quality in attack and defence. Diprose, a less obvious player, has qualities that would surely commend him to Woodward in respect of his good handling and his ability to draw the best out of others by the timing of his pass. Were he to play, it might make sense to have Hill, another Saracen, alongside him in his club position of open-side flanker, though that would leave no vacancy for Back, one of the few players whose reputation did not suffer at the Stade de France.

## 'Rowntree's name will surely be discussed by the England management'



Budget, the University of Wales Institute Cardiff No 8, powers out of a tackle in style to set up another attack

# Swansea make late surge in vain

UWIC ..... 14  
Swansea University ..... 10

By Gerald Davies

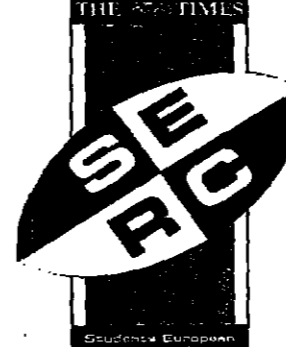
THE University of Wales Institute Cardiff beat Swansea University yesterday to go through to the final of the inaugural Students European Rugby Championship, sponsored by The Times. They will play Toulouse University.

Cardiff did not have the opportunities yesterday that they so clearly enjoyed in the competition so far. In their three pool matches, against Queen's University, Belfast and the universities of Exeter and Edinburgh, they had amassed a total of 249 points. Swansea were in no mood to be so generous. If they lacked speed and the ability to penetrate their opponents' defence, their own defence was well organised and unflinching against a team whose ambition at least was not matched by the appropriate skills. It left a feeling that if Swansea, who were in the lead for almost the whole of the

first half and in contention throughout, were ever to win, then Cardiff might endeavour to assist them.

Both teams exhibited the enthusiasm and exuberance that one would expect from student teams, but in the first minute they went a step too far. The spectators had hardly settled down in their seats when, to everyone's surprise, a full-scale fracas broke out at the first tackle. Two players were warned, though neither seemed to be the original culprits. Something similar occurred near the final whistle, but it was more in the way of students carrying out pranks.

Vobe and Cooper seemed to be the thorns in Swansea's side, doing their best to attack close to the scrum. It was Vobe, from close range, who kicked the two penalties to put Cardiff in the lead. Swansea, at this time, had given no hint that they were capable of scoring the kind of try they eventually did in the sixteenth minute. A faint and a delayed pass by Jones gave the time and



the lineout ball between the locks. Cardiff squandered a great deal of this, but Rees played a more careful game for Swansea, using his three-quarters sparingly.

Cardiff took the lead in the ninth minute with a fine three-quarter movement involving Vobe. Andrew Wagstaff and Peter Davies. They created the gap for Shorney to score.

Paul Matthews' dropped goal extended this, but did not put the victory beyond doubt. Swansea's final surge meant that Cardiff had a worrying few minutes before their celebrations began.

With the slope in their favour after the interval, Cardiff rarely left their opponents' half. Both half backs continued with their daring runs, but they were not well supported by a midfield that continued to commit too many errors or were guilty of over-complication. There was a good contest for

## SPORT IN BRIEF

### Byford is recalled by England

ENGLAND'S women, who performed rather better than their male equivalents against France, have made one change to the XV that will play Wales at Twickenham on Sunday. Janice Byford, who is one of eight Saracens players in the team, comes in at loose-head prop instead of Jenny Smith, her club colleague, who reverts to the replacements.

England beat the French women's team 13-5 in Lille last month and will be encouraged to have Gill Burns, their experienced No 8, working her way back to fitness after injury. Burns, the captain last season, is among the replacements.

ENGLAND WOMEN: P George (Worcester); J Matthews (Worcester); S Day (Worcester); A de la Haye (Saracens); V Brown (Northampton); Pagan (Worcester); E Mitchell (Saracens); captain: J Byford (Saracens); J Poore (Richmond); M Edwards (Saracens); T Swick (Richmond); C Green (Saracens); J Frost (Saracens); H Clayton (Saracens); C Frost (Saracens); replacements: J Smith (Saracens); J Pugh (Worcester); G Burns (Worcester); J Pugh (Worcester); S Harris (Worcester); K Knight (Oxford Lutonians).

TENNIS: Steffi Graf's long-awaited return to competition suffered another setback yesterday when she pulled out of the Paris Open, although not for the knee injury that has sidelined her for eight months.

The former world No 1 pulled her left calf muscle practising on Sunday for the tournament this week and, after waiting overnight to assess the damage, opted against risking it and returned home to Germany.

RACKETTS: James Male, the world champion, who has recently been concentrating on real tennis, showed that he will be difficult to beat when he swept to the quarter-finals of the Lacoste Open singles by defeating Harry Foster and Robert Walkley without losing a game. His main rivals, Neil Smith and Willie Boone, had equally easy victories, but Peter Brake, the No 7 seed, had a close match when defeating Tim Cockroft by three games to one.

## FOR THE RECORD

### ATHLETICS

NATIONAL ARCHA, Birmingham AAA championships: 100m: 11.1; 200m: 23.0; 400m: 1.11; 800m: 2.10; 1,000m: 2.30; 1,500m: 4.00; 2,000m: 5.30; 3,000m: 10.00; 4,000m: 13.30; 5,000m: 17.00; 6,000m: 20.30; 8,000m: 27.00; 10,000m: 33.30; 12,000m: 39.00; 15,000m: 48.00; 20,000m: 1.00.00; 30,000m: 1.40.00; 40,000m: 1.55.00; 50,000m: 2.05.00; 60,000m: 2.15.00; 80,000m: 2.35.00; 100,000m: 2.55.00; 120,000m: 3.10.00; 150,000m: 3.35.00; 200,000m: 4.00.00; 300,000m: 5.00.00; 400,000m: 6.00.00; 500,000m: 7.00.00; 600,000m: 8.00.00; 800,000m: 9.30.00; 1,000,000m: 11.00.00.

### BADMINTON

BRITISH OPEN, Loughborough: Men's Singles: 1st round: 1st set: 15-12; 2nd set: 15-12; 3rd set: 15-12; 4th set: 15-12; 5th set: 15-12; 6th set: 15-12; 7th set: 15-12; 8th set: 15-12; 9th set: 15-12; 10th set: 15-12; 11th set: 15-12; 12th set: 15-12; 13th set: 15-12; 14th set: 15-12; 15th set: 15-12; 16th set: 15-12; 17th set: 15-12; 18th set: 15-12; 19th set: 15-12; 20th set: 15-12; 21st set: 15-12; 22nd set: 15-12; 23rd set: 15-12; 24th set: 15-12; 25th set: 15-12; 26th set: 15-12; 27th set: 15-12; 28th set: 15-12; 29th set: 15-12; 30th set: 15-12; 31st set: 15-12; 32nd set: 15-12; 33rd set: 15-12; 34th set: 15-12; 35th set: 15-12; 36th set: 15-12; 37th set: 15-12; 38th set: 15-12; 39th set: 15-12; 40th set: 15-12; 41st set: 15-12; 42nd set: 15-12; 43rd set: 15-12; 44th set: 15-12; 45th set: 15-12; 46th set: 15-12; 47th set: 15-12; 48th set: 15-12; 49th set: 15-12; 50th set: 15-12; 51st set: 15-12; 52nd set: 15-12; 53rd set: 15-12; 54th set: 15-12; 55th set: 15-12; 56th set: 15-12; 57th set: 15-12; 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SAILING: CHANGES DESIGNED TO BOOST ENTRIES FOR PREMIER OFFSHORE EVENT

Admiral's Cup forced to steer new course

NO ONE can accuse the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) or its commodore, Terry Robinson, of dithering in the face of a crisis. The club's response to the poor turnout in the Champagne Mumm Admiral's Cup last year has been to radically reorganise it and yesterday, the last element of change was confirmed with the announcement of the Sydney 40 as the medium-sized boat next year.

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

19 in the mid-1980s, and the changes that Robinson has overseen are aimed at ensuring that at least 12 three-boat teams compete in 1999. Among the key changes are the decision to move the Cup out of Cowes Week, to shorten the event to two weeks inclusive, to drop the Fastnet Race in favour of the Wolf Rock Race and to restrict the proportion of professional sailors to just 50 per cent of the crew on each boat. All of these will make participation much more affordable.

for a third one-design and rejected claims that there are not enough competitive big boats, or owners with the money to build them. Some observers fear this could again restrict team numbers next year. It is thought, however, that an "age allowance" may be included to make older and production yachts in this band more competitive.

CRICKET

Hutchison stakes all on sweep

FROM SIMON WILDE IN MATARA

PAUL HUTCHISON, the Yorkshire left-arm swing bowler, had never played the sweep shot until yesterday, but he chose the perfect time to extend his limited repertoire of batting strokes. With the scores level, three balls of the second unofficial Test match remaining and England's last man on strike, he essayed a sweep at Arshad Junaid, the Sri Lanka off spinner, made rough contact and scampered off for the winning run.



Dean Headley celebrates the dismissal of David Williams, caught by Graham Thorpe for 65, on the final day of the second Test between West Indies and England in Trinidad

was a bold cause that did them credit. In three England A tours of Sri Lanka, there had never before been a positive result in nine unofficial Tests — nor often a sniff of one. The start of the run chase was not encouraging. James perished almost immediately, Knight and Maddy were becalmed before both they and Eatham fell while trying to

raise the tempo. This brought together Sales and Hoolioake, who set a pattern for sweeping the spinners that Graham Gooch, the England manager, would have approved of and reduced the requirement to 102 from the last 20 overs.

Hutchison, who had come in moments earlier, faced six balls in all and might well have been out to three of them. Somehow, though, he survived to gather two vital singles that helped England to pull off a victory that had looked beyond them at the start of play and then appeared there for the taking during an enterprising stanza of 86 in 17 overs between Ben Hollioake and David Sales, both of whom scored 45.

SCOREBOARD FROM MATARA

Table with columns for innings, batsmen, runs, and wickets. Includes details for Sri Lanka A's first and second innings, and a list of fall of wickets.

South Africa retain Woolmer

BOB WOOLMER has been reappointed as the South Africa coach until the end of the World Cup in June next year. The board was unanimous. Ali Bacher, the chief executive of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, said yesterday: "He has an excellent record since taking over in October 1994." Woolmer had a 71 per cent success rate in limited-overs internationals. Bacher added, and a 42 per cent success rate in Test matches.

plus the uncapped New South Wales off spinner, Gavin Robertson, who played four one-day international matches on the 1994 tour of Pakistan. There are two uncapped fast bowlers, Adam Dale, of Queensland, and Paul Wilson, of South Australia.

Trust AA advertisement. Features the text 'Trust AA A feeling beyond price' and 'AA'. Includes a small image of a person's face and contact information: 'Join today, call 0800 444 445 ext. 6196'.

WORD-WATCHING section. Includes 'Answers from page 46', 'ADESPOTA', 'FALLAL', 'CANAIGRE', and 'BARRAMUNDI'. Each entry provides a definition or explanation of the word.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Luring unwary shoppers

Shop Till You Drop Channel 4, 8.00pm. Tonight we learn about the devices used by clothes shops to lure us in and get us to buy and there is a lot more to it than most of us probably imagine. The shop window, for instance, is designed to catch the attention from 25 yards away. Any more or less and the would-be shopper has been lost. Just inside the door there is the decompression zone, jargon for a space free of merchandise designed to allow the customer a chance to acclimatise.



Catwalk queen, Kate Moss (BBC1, 9.30pm)

Cutting Edge Channel 4, 9.00pm. Malcolm Brinkworth concludes his two-part series about those nice people in Sussex who organise air ambulance for the rich. The programme is a bit sick or injured abroad. More cases are reported this week, two of them looking rather nasty. In France Bruce Reid and his family are involved in a car crash which leaves his elderly mother with nine broken ribs, a punctured lung and internal bleeding.

as he turns his lens on the likes of Kate Moss and Sophie Dahl. Moss has been one sort of icon for 1990s, the face on a thousand covers and the model ammunition for those who accuse the model industry of encouraging young women to starve themselves in the cause of glamour. Dahl, by contrast, seems a throwback to the fuller figures of old. Both women talk of what being a supermodel entails. Moss from the perspective of a relative veteran and Dahl as one who has burst into prominence in the past year.

Inside Story: Dazzled BBC1, 9.30pm. The more simple-minded among us may wonder what, apart from hype, distinguishes a supermodel from just a model. Christopher O'Leary's film tries to provide the answer. Having previously tackled Nazi gold and before that the memoirs of John F. Kennedy, O'Leary enters very different territory.

Omibus: Pierre Bonnard BBC1, 10.20pm. The Bonnard exhibition at the London Tate Gallery is the occasion for a profile which is as much about the artist's private life as his contribution to modern painting. But as Eleanor Yule's thoughtful film shows, it is impossible to separate the two. Martine, the young shopgirl who became the love of Bonnard's life, was also his model and the inspiration for the sensuous nudes which belong to his finest work. But it is suggested that their relationship, which lasted for 49 years, had a darker and even tragic side. The paintings themselves are adduced as evidence of a growing distance between the two and it is suggested that with Martine increasingly subject to illness and Nazi gold and before that the memoirs of John F. Kennedy, O'Leary enters very different territory.

RADIO CHOICE

The Regiment Radio 4, 10.00am, FM only. Certain Radio 4 listeners never tire of reminding me that they cannot get FM where they are, therefore all this cricket on long wave is a disgrace. So this morning I have some special news for them. David Lloyd, the England cricket coach, is presenting a programme on the frequency they cannot get, so they will not have to listen to him. Better still, Lloyd himself cannot hear the programme because he is in the West Indies. As it happens, the programme is a splendid piece of English eccentricity, a portrait of the crotchety Englishman per excellence. The regiment has nothing to do with the armed forces and refers to Lloyd and a few friends who gather at the Bramhall Park golf club in Stockport.

Cursed with Both Head and Heart Radio 4, 2.00pm. Dorothy L. Sayers, best known as the inventor of the aristocratic amateur detective Lord Peter Wimsey but also a distinguished novelist and translator, was one of the most interesting people in British writing this century. She had a complex and often passionate private life which this programme, featuring her correspondence from the early 1920s onwards, unravels in full measure. Her love life was truly turbulent: she had an obsession with the writer John Coward which was to become an unhappy love affair and which ended painfully when she had a child by an unemployed mechanic. The letters are introduced by Dr Barbara Reynolds, Sayers's biographer, and read by Sheila Mitchell. Peter Barnard

Table of radio programmes. Columns include station name (e.g., RADIO 1, RADIO 2, RADIO 3, RADIO 4, VIRGIN RADIO, TALK RADIO, WORLD SERVICE, CLASSIC FM), programme name, and time slot.

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page. It features the word 'Fear' in a large, stylized font at the top. Below it, there is a grid of small, illegible text boxes, likely representing a newspaper's classifieds or a list of small advertisements.

# Fearful entertainment, painful reminders

When people asked him why he didn't relax more and work less, Noel Coward liked to say that work was much more fun than sex (although this may have been because Coward's kind of fun could get a man arrested in those days). But if you find even your own idea of fun dull, then other people's is truly hell — especially if their notion of fun is plunging 235 ft down Europe's tallest rollercoaster, and you develop vertigo if you even step onto a zero-100 quickly.

A Portuguese game show which pays people big money to overcome their fears there would be fun to scared 30-year-old Susanna — a scrag of heights — over from Lisbon and shove her down Blackpool's Big One (now you know why Lisbon never became Inmour capital of the world). And then the makers of *Pleasure Beach* (BBC1) thought it would be fun to film the game show people filming Susanna

as she went with fear at the prospect of boarding Blackpool's 235-ft-high big dipper. Watching a TV crew filming a TV crew brings us one step closer to the day when the only docu-soap subject left to exploit will be the making of a docu-soap.

"What kind of entertainment do you call this?" Susanna wailed through her tears to the show's permanently grinning host, Jorge ("He's Portugal's Jeremy Beadle," said *Pleasure Beach's* narrator, Nick Hancock, exploiting the freedom afforded him by Portugal's presumably lax defamation laws).

At least that's what the subtitles told us she had said, though maybe the dialogue was mistranslated, and that what Susanna had actually screamed was "Jorge, whatever you do don't stop grinning like a cretin, or betray any sign that you feel at all ashamed about humiliating me like this." Jorge bullied her into climbing

aboard, first with words, then with cash. He offered her around £500. Finally Susanna relented. The impression Jorge conveyed was that greed had got the better of her phobia. The truth was probably that she just surrendered to the nagging of the camera lens, embarrassed to be holding up 50 other passengers who had grown restless with her shilly-shallying.

So who was it who squealed about Susanna's phobia to Jorge? Actually, her mum did. Obviously a warm, supportive mother-daughter relationship there, then.

More fraught mother-daughter relationships than over on BBC2 in *Children of Divorce*, the first of three programmes by Hilary Clarke exploring how children cope with and react to divorce. No narration, no commentary, no sensationalism, no apportioning of blame, and no grinning Jorge.

## REVIEW



Joe Joseph

But what exactly was the aim of this collage of interviews with children, all aged between six and 12, and whose parents have split up within the last two to ten years? Voyeurism? Too discreet for that. To beat the drum for marriage and traditional family values? Not nearly judgmental enough for that. To make parents think even more deeply than most of their already do when they

decide to turn their backs on each other — bearing in mind that nearly a quarter of children will experience divorce by the time they are 16? That must have been it.

Like a photograph slowly revealing itself in a developing tank, an image emerged of a future generation wounded in ways they barely understand — not that a passer-by would have detected the damage: it was mostly internal bleeding. Many are convinced that their father left "because he doesn't like us any more". Others, not yet teenagers, have stepped into departed mothers' shoes, feeding and dressing their younger siblings.

A young girl — maybe nine, red T-shirt, ponytail, a stuffed, pink elephant on her bed — recalls the day she saw her father pack his bags: "I went back to my room to think about what I'd just seen, because I knew I wasn't supposed to watch them having a row. And then I heard the door slam. And

then that was it. After my parents split I didn't have anybody round to my house. I used to go to other people's houses because I liked seeing a normal family, but I didn't want anyone to come to my house because it was different... I used to walk around the house and I used to want to smell where he'd been, because I loved his smell. But the house lost his smell after a while because my mum sprayed air freshener all over the place."

There used to be a TV commercial for a dry-cleaner's, in which a City gent wears a white suit through his usual navy suit gets without him noticing. These children's pain was similarly camouflaged in daily life. Martin Bell, of course, does wear a white suit. Yet he's not in the pay of Sketchley's. So why, asked Jeremy Isaacs on *Face To Face* (BBC2). What does it mean to him?

"I wear it every day that I'm on duty," said the war-correspondent-turned-MP, as if relating some new twist in the Bosnian War, "every day when I'm anywhere near the House of Commons or where I consider to be a hazardous environment, where I need the extra margin of good luck."

"It means I'm safe... Croatia was very dangerous... I happened to be wearing a white suit and I associated my survival with the white suit I was wearing. So that's why I wear it. And it works..." It's an unassailable argument. It reminds you of the man's journey from London to Bristol tearing his newspaper into small pieces which he would then throw out of the window. "Why do you keep doing that?" asked a bemused fellow-passenger, eventually. "Because it keeps the tigers away," came the reply. "But there are no tigers." "Wonderfully effective, isn't it?"

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (64861)
  - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (7) (54045)
  - 9.00 *At the Shop* (852855)
  - 9.25 *Change That* from Devizes (863760)
  - 9.50 *Kilroy* (7) (256497)
  - 10.30 *Can't Cook, Won't Cook* (7) (285461)
  - 10.55 *The Really Useful Show* (7) (494040)
  - 11.35 *What Would You Do?* (3176213)
  - 12.00 News (7) regional news and weather (89192)
  - 12.05pm *Call My Bluff* (1400652)
  - 12.55 *Going for a Song* (808132)
  - 1.00 News (7) and weather (57132)
  - 1.30 *Regional News* (7) (71973856)
  - 1.40 *The Weather Show* (7) (434665)
  - 1.45 *Neighbours* (7) (2167174)
  - 2.10 *Petrolhead* (7) (6550749)
  - 3.00 *Who'll Do the Padding?* (4768)
  - 3.30 *Spider* (581350) 3.35 *Playdays* (442229) 3.55 *Hubbub* (1680381) 4.10 *Chuckwold Critics* (6043213) 4.35 *The Really Wild Show* (6946768) 5.00 *Newround* (7) (7498652) 5.10 *Grange Hill* (7) (4784923)
  - 5.35 *Neighbours* (7) (65854)
  - 6.00 News (7) and weather (381)
  - 6.30 *Regional News* (7) (861)
  - 7.00 *Holiday A* self-catering break in Ireland, Roma and Amalfi; Turkey's lagoon resort Oia Deniz; Antigua and Nevis; the Isle of Man (7) (8749)
  - 7.30 *A Question of Sport* Rugby star Rob Weight; golfer Mark James; cricketer May King and goalkeeper Ben Smith; join Ally McCoist and John Parrot for the sporting quiz (7) (895)
  - 8.00 *EastEnders* The DJ Marco clan snap up George's offer of a home and business in the Squares (7) (5497)
  - 8.30 *The Cruise: Lights, Camera, Action!* The ship's performers are dressed to meet their three days to stage a new musical extravaganza (7) (4872)
  - 9.00 News (7) and weather (2768)
  - 9.30 *One Foot in the Grave* Victor lands in a pickle thanks to a conjuring trick (7) (30723) **WALSLEY: 9.30 Week in Walsley** (30723) 10.00 *Inside Story* (803395) 10.50 *FAW Invitation Cup* (702213) 11.30 *Criminals* (660403)
  - 10.00 **Inside Story: Dezzled** Cameras go backstage on preparations for New York Fashion Week. An insight into the work of supermodels Kate Moss and Sophie Dahl (7) (803395)
  - 10.50 **Omnibus: Piero** Giovanni Piero Bonnard's love for his wife and his lifelong muse, Merve, is documented in the intimate portraits that have established him as one of the great masters of colour and light (7) (544128)
  - 11.40 *Weather* (752213)
  - 11.45 *Olympic Games* Includes 11.55: 2.00 *Curling: Great Britain vs USA*; 12.50: 1.50 *St-Jumping*; 1.25: 4.00 *Skating: The men's combined event*; 3.30 *Freestyle Skiing: The final of the men's moguls* (41365720)
  - NBS: Subsequent programme subject to change**  
4.30am *BBC News 24*
- Video Plus+** and the **Video PlusCodes**
- The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to program your video recorder to receive a Video Plus+ broadcast. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Video Plus+ is a trademark of Genstar Development Ltd.

- BBC2**
- 7.00am *See Hear Breakfast News* (7 and signing) (3257720)
  - 7.15 *Blue Peter* (7) (72652)
  - 7.45 *Olympic Grandstand* Curling, skiing, luge and ice hockey (532010)
  - 8.45 *The Record* (6882958) 9.10 *Into Work* (5413300) 9.25 *See You, See Me* (682950) 9.45 *Numberline* (5141756) 10.00 *Teletubbies* (44125) 10.30 *Watch* (3016768) 10.45 *Teaching Today* (847294) 11.15 *Megamaths* (5811045) 11.35 *History File* (3174855) 12.00 *See Hear* (7) (82213)
  - 12.30pm *Olympic Grandstand* Includes: *Figure Skating: the pairs free-programme*; 2.10 *Curling: highlights of Great Britain vs Canada. Plus: the men's 500m speed skating* (6882958)
  - 2.40 *News* (7) (687213) 2.45 *Westminster* (7) (3126213) 3.25 *News* (7) (5649871) 3.30 *The Village* (7) (809) 4.00 *Real Rooms* (7) (5705472) 4.25 *Ready, Steady, Cook* (5705565) 4.55 *Esther: Public figures with dark secrets* (653328) 5.30 *Today's the Day* (710)
  - 6.00 *The O Zone* Backstage at the Brits (7) (652565)
  - 6.15 *Heartbeat High* (7) (135039)
  - 7.00 *Essential Winter Olympics Sue Barber and Steve Rider* catch up on the fourth day's action in Nagano: figure skating, women's super giant slalom, women's slalom cross-country, men's speed skating and men's and women's curling (7) (70359)
  - 8.30 *Food and Drink* Panatone torries banana pudding; Eastern European white wines; authentic Italian food (7) (8774)
  - 9.00 *Unforgettable* (1996) with John Ritter and Kevin Dunn. An abusive man's efforts to win back the love and trust of his wife and child by undergoing therapy. Directed by Graeme Campbell (7) (1036)
  - 10.30 *Newsnight* (7) (439855)
- Ben Elton hosts the awards (8pm)**
- 8.00 *The Brit Awards 1998* as hosted last night by Ben Elton where Fleetwood Mac received the award for Outstanding Contribution to the British Music Industry. Includes performances by Texas, the Spice Girls, Finlay Quaye, Chumbawamba, Fun Lovin' Criminals. Plus: a live link to The Venue's show at Brits Academy (7) (13520)

10.00 *News* (7) and weather (8778)

10.30 *Regional News* (552855)

10.40 *Crash* Documentary about the aftermath of a car crash in which a teenager was injured, with footage taken minutes after the car overturned (7) (350229)

11.40 *The Guest List* presented by Vanessa Bewley (7) (419316)

12.10am *Tales from the Crypt: For Cryin' Out Loud* (445324)

12.40 *Collins and Macdonie's Movie Club* (4604546)

1.10 *The Fashion Police* (7) (4330527)

1.45 *The Ordeal of Bill Carter* (1981) by Richard Crenna and Ray Sherry. Based on the true story of a quadriplegic former marine struggling to make his children single-handedly raise his wife leaves him. Directed by Jerry London (7) (81782)

3.25 *Football Extra* (7) (819504)

4.30 *TV Nightstand* (58188)

5.30 *News* (58053)

- HTV**
- 6.00am *GMTV* (6842229)
  - 9.25 *Win, Lose or Draw* (7) (8540010)
  - 9.55 *Regional News* (7) (8080861)
  - 10.00 *The Time, The Place* (7) (31652)
  - 10.30 *This Morning* (7) (58166478)
  - 12.30pm *Regional News* (8305128)
  - 12.30 *News* (7) and weather (5083229)
  - 12.55 *Shortland Street* (8888720)
  - 1.25 *Home and Away* (7) (70894788)
  - 1.50 *Crossroads* (7) (21671107)
  - 2.20 *Chief School* The novice chefs learn how to select and prepare fish (82744652)
  - 2.50 *Messiah: How Children Ruined Our Relationship* (7) (6256571)
  - 3.30 *News* (7) (5641126)
  - 3.25 *Regional News* (7) (5640497)
  - 3.30 *Potamus Park* (1755850) 3.40 *Wisdoms* (5722294) 3.50 *Rupert* (7) (4429170) 4.15 *Play* (6833818)
  - 5.10 *WALSLEY: Yan Can Cook* (5339403)
  - 5.10 *Can You Keep a Secret?* (7) (5339403)
  - 5.40 *News* (7) and weather (89378)
  - 6.00 *Home and Away* (7) (7292107)
  - 6.25 *Regional Weather* (808403)
  - 6.30 *Regional News* (223)
  - 7.00 *Emmerdale* Marion does his best to cheer up Lily. Lady Tara has a surprise visitor. Bill and Ned are in a dangerous situation; the Dingles initiate Paddy into their clan (7) (7565)
- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:
- 12.55pm-1.25 *A Country Practice* (8688720)
  - 5.10-5.40 *Shortland Street* (5339403)
  - 6.25-7.00 *Central News* (588229)
  - 11.40 *Renegade*. Adventures of a latter-day bounty hunter, starring Lorenzo Lamas (588855)
  - 12.35am *Collins and Macdonie's Movie Club* (4605275)
  - 1.05 *The Fashion Police* (433614)
  - 1.40 *Film: Without Her Consent* (1990). A fact-based drama starring Melissa Gilbert, Scott Valentine and Barry Tubb, directed by Sandor Stern (729656)
  - 3.25 *Football Extra* (3053701)
  - 4.20 *Central Jobfinder* '98 (1703324)
  - 5.20 *Asian Eye* (1891856)
- As HTV West except:
- 12.55-1.25 *Surprise Chefs* (6888720)
  - 5.10-5.40 *Shortland Street* (5339403)
  - 6.23 *Anglia Weather* (807132)
  - 6.25-7.00 *Anglia News* (588229)
  - 10.29 *Anglia Air Watch* (803687)
  - 11.40 *First Take* (419316)
- MERIDIAN**
- As HTV West except:
- 5.10-5.40 *Home and Away* (5339403)
  - 6.00 *Meridian Tonight* (749)
  - 6.30-7.00 *Surprise Chefs* (223)
  - 11.40 *Prisoner: Cell Block H* (382590)
  - 5.00am *FreeScreen* (43886)
- ANGLIA**
- As HTV West except:
- 12.55-1.25 *Surprise Chefs* (6888720)
  - 5.10-5.40 *Shortland Street* (5339403)
  - 6.23 *Anglia Weather* (807132)
  - 6.25-7.00 *Anglia News* (588229)
  - 10.29 *Anglia Air Watch* (803687)
  - 11.40 *First Take* (419316)
- SBS**
- Starts: 6.00am *Sesame Street* (86841)
- 7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (74855)
  - 9.00 *Yagellon* (124774)
  - 11.30 *Powerhouse* (8671)
  - 12.00 *Montel Williams* (77381)
  - 12.30pm *Sesame Street* (80774)
  - 1.00 *Slot Methrin* (11731671)
  - 1.15 *Y Blobs* (11736126)
  - 1.30 *Pat and Mat* (81419478)
  - 1.50 *Film: Innocents in Paris* (69351294)
  - 3.30 *Collectors' Lot* (107)
  - 4.00 *Fifteen-to-One* (942)
  - 4.30 *Countdown* (126)
  - 5.00 *5 Pump* (2923)
  - 5.30 *Classic Planet* (478)
  - 6.00 *Newsnight* (656381)
  - 6.10 *Home* (247213)
  - 7.00 *Pudsey's Cwm* (129107)
  - 7.25 *Pudley* (324381)
  - 8.00 *Y Sloe Golf* (8107)
  - 8.30 *Newyddion* (3382)
  - 9.00 *Achabachas: Y Gem* (205039)
  - 9.45 *Foundations* (141300)
  - 10.00 *Brookside* (388497)
  - 10.35 *Jake's Progress* (34557671)
  - 12.35am *In Edle* (4603817)
  - 1.05-1.35 *Dressing for Breakfast* (8281782)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
  - 12.55pm-1.25 *A Country Practice* (8688720)
  - 5.10-5.40 *Shortland Street* (5339403)
  - 6.25-7.00 *Central News* (588229)
  - 11.40 *Renegade*. Adventures of a latter-day bounty hunter, starring Lorenzo Lamas (588855)
  - 12.35am *Collins and Macdonie's Movie Club* (4605275)
  - 1.05 *The Fashion Police* (433614)
  - 1.40 *Film: Without Her Consent* (1990). A fact-based drama starring Melissa Gilbert, Scott Valentine and Barry Tubb, directed by Sandor Stern (729656)
  - 3.25 *Football Extra* (3053701)
  - 4.20 *Central Jobfinder* '98 (1703324)
  - 5.20 *Asian Eye* (1891856)
- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.00am *Sesame Street* (86841)
  - 7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (74855)
  - 9.00 *Schools: Science in Focus* (7) (8545565)
  - 9.22 *Lost Animals* (4412861) 9.30 *Eureka!* (7) (831278) 9.45 *Stop, Look, Listen* (7) (858782) 10.00 *Fourways Farm* (558294) 10.10 *TVM* (7) (4202045) 10.25 *How We Used to Live* (7) (1118552) 10.45 *Quest* (7) (3102519) 11.00 *First Edition* (6258749) 11.15 *Stage One* (7) (6264300)
  - 11.30 *Powerhouse* Political magazine (8671) 12.00 *Sesame Street* (77381)
  - 12.30pm *Light Lunch* The guests are the comedy duo Lee and Herring (28768)
  - 1.30 *Change to Lat* (1941, b/w) *A Second World War* drama with Leslie Banks, about an inventor working on a new bomb-sight who becomes the kidnap target for Fifth Columnists, directed by Anthony Asquith (85577313)
  - 3.10 *The Three Stooges* (b/w) in *Fatfoot Stages* (7) (1973835)
  - 3.30 *Collectors' Lot* Coca-Cola and Phil Sime's memorabilia (7) (107) 4.00 *Fifteen-to-One* (7) (942) 4.30 *Countdown* (7) (830107) 4.55 *Ricki Lake: Men who have fallen for older women* (7) (8230756) 5.30 *Pet Rescue* (7) (478)
  - 6.00 *Friends* Rachel encounters romantic complications (7) (519)
  - 6.30 *Home Improvement: Let Them Eat Cake* Tool Time wins a cable TV award (7) (671)
  - 7.00 *Channel 4 News* (7) (526297)
  - 7.50 *Raw Talent* Lisa McGilona who, aged eight, became the youngest karate black belt in the country (2/4) (7) (285497)
- Sarah and Karl go shopping (8.00pm)**
- 8.00 **Shop Till You Drop: Shopping by Design** How the experts manipulate the consumer into buying clothes (2/8) (7) (107)
  - 8.30 *Brookside* Will Susannah be able to keep the baby confidential? Ron clashes with social security (7) (3382)
  - 9.00 **Cutting Edge: Rescue** Series on the services available when holidays go wrong (7) (7519)
  - 10.00 *Body Snatchers* (1994) Gabrielle Anwar stars as a disturbed teenager who discovers that alien pods from a nearby swamp are devouring and replicating human beings. Abel Ferrara directs (7) (113881)
  - 11.40 *Invasion* (1966, b/w) with Edward Judd. An atmospheric science fiction thriller directed by Alan Bridges (7) (47749)
  - 1.05am *Dispatches* (7) (678546) 1.40 *Satellite Wars* (7) (9431121) 2.40 *International* (9571508) 2.45 *Invisible Enemies* (7) (7674853) 3.45 *Foot Animation* (80411053)
  - 4.00 *Schools: Top! En Español* (755701) 5.40 *Cluche Cool* is Canan (885169)

- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
- Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder 85 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 85 are picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz.
- 6.00am *5 News Early* (377687)
  - 7.00 *Exclusive* (7) (4555671) 7.30 *Mishake!* (7716500) 7.55 *Headline*: *Winnona House* (7) (868774) 8.00 *Headline*: *Parrot* (7) (7162010) 8.30 *WorldWide: Comparing the National Curricula used by schools in Britain and France* (7) (7161381)
  - 9.00 *Espresso* (812958) 10.00 *Flight to Freedom* (7) (208836) 10.30 *Sunset Beach* (7) (3417478) 11.30 *Lecca* (2528855)
  - 12.00 *5 News* (7) (712497) 12.30pm *Family Affairs* (7) (7123823) 1.00 *The Bold* and *Brazen* (7) (4954942) 1.30 *The Great House Game* (7) (209567) 2.00 *Beauty and the Beast* (7) (1152113) 3.00 *Per Cent Cool* (1324213)
  - 3.30 *So This is Love* (1953, b/w) Biopic of the soprano Grace Moore. With Kathryn Grayson and Merv Griffin. Directed by Gordon Douglas (5721720)
- Julia Bradbury (5.30pm)**
- 5.30 *Movie Cafe* Julia Bradbury talks to Matthew Modine about his new film, *The Blackout*, in which he stars with Cindy Crawford (4831958)
  - 6.00 *100 Per Cent* Game show without a host (4586671)
  - 6.30 *Family Affairs* Annie changes her mind and Holly falls a dilemma (7) (454922)
  - 7.00 *5 News* (7) (1316294)
  - 7.30 *Flight to Freedom: Fury of the Forest* Documentary about the hairy eagle of Central America (7) (4545107)
  - 8.00 *The Great Garden Game: Gardening with the Queen* Gardeners at Gloucestershire. Tonight, the teams have to tie in and prune some roses and trim the prize wreath hedges (7) (132542)
  - 8.30 *What's the Story?* Weekly news magazine (1311749)
  - 9.00 *Poltergeist: The Legacy* Rachel treats a young woman who is traumatised by recurring dreams about a wolf (7) (1610774)
  - 9.55 *Poltergeist: The Legacy* Angelina Lichner-Dorak's sister and lines him into a trap (7) (3303827)
  - 10.50 *The Jerry Docherty Show* Chal and comedy (882430)
  - 11.35 *Live and Dangerous* Sports magazine with Shalby Webb and Dominik Diamond. Includes motorsport action and football (19351300)
  - 4.40am *Prisoner: Cell Block H* (7862904)
  - 5.30 *100 Per Cent* (7) (8037895)

- SATELLITE AND CABLE**
- 10.30 *Rebel Stars* (8745228) 10.30 *SH Prime* (863748) 11.00 *Crest* (875882) 2.00am *Sports Centre* (182284) 2.30 *Pro Beach Soccer* (785168) 3.30 *Cine*
  - SKY SPORTS 3**
    - 12.00pm *Westing: Live Wire* (7167403)
    - 1.00 *Rich TV* (715222) 2.00 *World Motor Sport* (3488229) 3.00 *Survival of the Fittest* (8074059) 7.00 *Rich TV* (7167403)
    - 8.30 *Live Curling* (514188) 10.00 *Superstars* (8177850) 11.00 *Olympic Debates* (8460048) 11.30 *Cine*
  - EUROSPORT**
    - 7.00am *Olympic Ice Hockey* (80403) 7.30 *Live Speed Skating* (76128) 8.30 *Alpine Skiing* (811887) 10.00 *Cross-Country Skiing* (62294) 11.00 *Live Skiing* (81822)
    - 2.00pm *Luge* (2985) 3.00 *Women's Cross-Country Skiing* (800) 3.30 *Alpine Skiing* (36581) 5.00 *Olympic Athlete* (1045)
    - 5.30 *Luge* (3774) 6.30 *Speed Skating* (3658) 7.00 *Figure Skating* (84928) 8.00 *Ice Hockey* (811887) 10.45 *Olympic Sports* (72953) 11.00 *Alpine Skiing* (43829) 12.00 *Speed Skating* (3224) 12.30am *Live Skiing* (81822) *Jumping* (8051) 5.00 *Speed Skating* (36581) 6.00 *Live Curling* (514188) 10.00 *Live Skiing* (81822) 4.00 *Live Football* (73124)
  - UK GOLD**
    - 7.00am *Ricci Giacconi* (218213) 7.35 *Neighbours* (875851) 8.00 *Crossroads* (840887) 8.25 *EastEnders* (723871) 9.00 *The Bill* (528294) 9.30 *Homebrew* (7) (80577) 10.00 *The Bill* (528294) 10.30 *Homebrew* (7) (80577) 11.00 *The Bill* (528294) 11.30 *Homebrew* (7) (80577) 12.00 *The Bill* (528294) 12.30 *Homebrew* (7) (80577) 1.00 *The Bill* (528294) 1.30 *Homebrew* (7) (80577) 2.00 *The Bill* (528294) 2.30 *Homebrew* (7) (80577) 3.00 *The Bill* (528294) 3.30 *Homebrew* (7) (80577) 4.00 *The Bill* (528294) 4.30 *Homebrew* (7) (80577) 5.00 *The Bill* (528294) 5.30 *Homebrew* (7) (80577) 6.00 *The Bill* (528294) 6.30 *Homebrew* (7) (80577) 7.00 *The Bill* (528294) 7.30 *Homebrew* (7) (80577) 8.00 *The Bill* (528294) 8.30 *Homebrew* (7) (80577) 9.00 *The Bill* (528294) 9.30 *Homebrew* (7) (80577) 10.00 *The Bill* (528294) 10.30 *Homebrew* (7) (80577) 11.00 *The Bill* (528294) 11.30 *Homebrew* (7) (80577) 12.00 *The Bill* (528294) 12.30 *Homebrew* (7) (80577) 1.00 *The Bill* (528294) 1.30 *Homebrew* (7) (80577) 2.00 *The Bill* (528294) 2.30 *Homebrew* (7) (80577) 3.00 *The Bill* (528294) 3.30 *Homebrew* (7) (80577) 4.00 *The Bill* (528294) 4.30 *Homebrew* (7) (80577) 5.00 *The Bill* (528294) 5.30 *Homebrew* (7) (80577) 6.00 *The Bill* (528294) 6.30 *Homebrew* (7) (80577) 7.00 *The Bill* (528294) 7.30 *Homebrew* (7) (80577) 8.00 *The Bill* (528294) 8.30 *Homebrew* (7) (80577) 9.00 *The Bill* (528294) 9.30 *Homebrew* (7) (80577) 10.00 *The Bill* (528294) 10.30 *Homebrew* (7



**ATHLETICS 46**  
Norman playing influential role in rebuilding job

# SPORT

**WINTER OLYMPICS 47**

British curlers make roaring start in Nagano



TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10 1998

New-ball bowlers bear brunt of blame for shattering defeat in Trinidad

## England find test too tough again

FROM ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
IN PORT OF SPAIN

PORT OF SPAIN (final day of five): West Indies beat England by three wickets

IT WILL take a considerable time for England to comprehend how they came to lose a game that they had dictated for most of its course. Indeed, the deflation of defeat in a second Test of low scores, high drama and incessant tension may be so great that they will still be wondering when this series has passed them by.

Twenty minutes after lunch on a fifth day of debilitating heat, Carl Hooper straight-drove the decisive four and raised both arms in jubilation, while English heads hung in disbelief. Hooper's composed, unbeaten 94, made in almost six hours and without a blemish, was eventually the difference between these sides.

There was, however, no single factor to the improbable outcome, just a saga of mount-



Winning smiles: Hooper, left, shares the joy of victory with Lara, his captain, and off-drives during his match-winning innings. Photographs: Laurence Griffiths/Allsport

Photograph ..... 50  
Triumph for a team ..... 50

ing frustration and dawning disillusionment for an England side that failed to maintain its disciplines of the first three days. From their position on Saturday evening, 242 ahead and six wickets intact on an uneven pitch, defeat ought not to have been an option.

One could say it went awry for England when their lower order crumbled on the fourth morning, or when they squandered the new ball that same afternoon. One might even blame the return catch missed by Angus Fraser from the first ball of yesterday morning, but that would be callous judgment of a man who had carried an otherwise inept England attack.

The unpalatable truth is that this team showed the fallibility of so many of its predecessors, failing to complete a job through sloppiness and inconsistency. The places of both the new-ball bowlers, Dean Headley and Andrew Caddick, will be seriously

discussed before the series resumes here on Friday. So will that of Adam Hogg, who contributed neither with bat nor ball, and probably even Jack Russell, who can have had few untidier games.

Distrust of Headley was so evident yesterday that he was not brought on to bowl until the match was all but lost. With typical contrariness, he proceeded to take the only two wickets to fall. Caddick finished the five days wicketless, a sad indictment in conditions that were always helpful.

Partly through the necessarily rushed preparation time,

but largely due to the unhealthy state of the Queen's Park square, this was a pitch of fickle pace and bounce. Yet, as so often with such surfaces, it produced a match of constant, compelling fascination.

Yesterday morning, with West Indies still requiring 101 and their last recognised batting pair together, England remained firm favourites and one can only speculate as to how rapidly it would have ended if Fraser had taken the first-ball chance. David Williams pushed back the loosener like a man still in a dream; Fraser reacted like a man in oversized wellington boots.

Williams, however, continued to earn his luck, belying his tiny stature with giant forward strides to negate the low bounce. The first half-

### TESTS IN WHICH FOURTH INNINGS WAS HIGHEST OF MATCH

1905-06	South Africa v England	Johannesburg	237-9
1949-50	Australia v South Africa	Durban	336-5
1968-69	West Indies v New Zealand	Auckland	348-8
1975-76	India v West Indies	Port of Spain	405-4
1984	West Indies v England	Lord's	344-1
1984-85	New Zealand v Pakistan	Dunedin	278-8
1988	West Indies v England	The Oval	226-2
1995-97	Australia v South Africa	Port Elizabeth	271-8
1997-98	St Lanka v Zimbabwe	Colombo	326-2
1997-98	West Indies v England	Port of Spain	262-2

hour brought only six runs, but when Hooper passed 50 after more than four hours of unswerving concentration, the scoring-rate changed gear. Atherton called upon Tunell but the ball scarcely turned and England were reduced to increasingly histrionic appeals.

When the second new ball

was taken, West Indies needed another 76. A wicket then would have restored England's advantage but they reaped Williams yet again. Russell missing a gloved chance off Fraser as he tumbled away to leg.

Next ball Fraser strayed in line and Hooper glanced it for four. Heads were now being

shaken and hands placed on hips in an expressive body language.

The first century stand of the match was completed in three hours and the headaches facing Atherton were illustrated by the need for two men protecting the boundaries backward of square leg, as a guard against Caddick's propensity for leg-side half-volleys. Fraser was weary after the dubious denial of a convincing leg-before shout against Williams, he was also angry. The captain no longer knew where to turn.

Headley's summons, with only 37 wanted, was an insulting afterthought, yet briefly it revived English hopes. His wickets were gained by balls of ideal length — Williams, who had batted 220 minutes for his first Test half-century,

edged a straightforward catch to first slip and Ambrose, roared gladiatorially to the crease, made only one before being caught behind.

They went to lunch with 23 runs required and three wickets standing. England knew they could not afford one more wayward over, but Headley bowled it immediately, giving Benjamin the width to carve and then offering a long-hop gift for Hooper to dispatch.

Fraser, willing as ever, was exhorted to one last effort but the game slipped beyond him and England with a final, freakish twist — a ball that pitched and scuttled past off stump at ankle height slipping through Russell's legs and hitting the parked, fielding helmets for a penalty of five runs. There was to be no coming back from that.

## Leonard under fire from France

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE French Rugby Federation confirmed yesterday that it will send a letter of complaint to the Rugby Football Union (RFU) over an incident during Saturday's international in Paris when Jason Leonard is alleged to have stamped on Thomas Lévremont, the France No 8.

Lévremont left the field with damaged ribs during the second half of the game, won by France 24-17, though it is not clear whether the incident that forms the subject of the complaint was the same as the one in which he suffered the injury. There was no outcry immediately after the match and Lévremont is expected to be fit for selection against Scotland on February 21.

However, the French are in a position to adopt a strong moral tone against their home-unions counterparts. In 1996, they suspended Richard Dourthe for two internationals after a kicking incident against England, which was not seen by the match officials, and last year Franck Tournaire, the Toulouse prop, was suspended for one match for foul play during the game with Ireland.

In addition, the French team management chose not to pick Philippe Carbonneau for the series with South Africa last autumn after a head-butting incident during Brive's Heineken Cup match with Pontypridd in September.

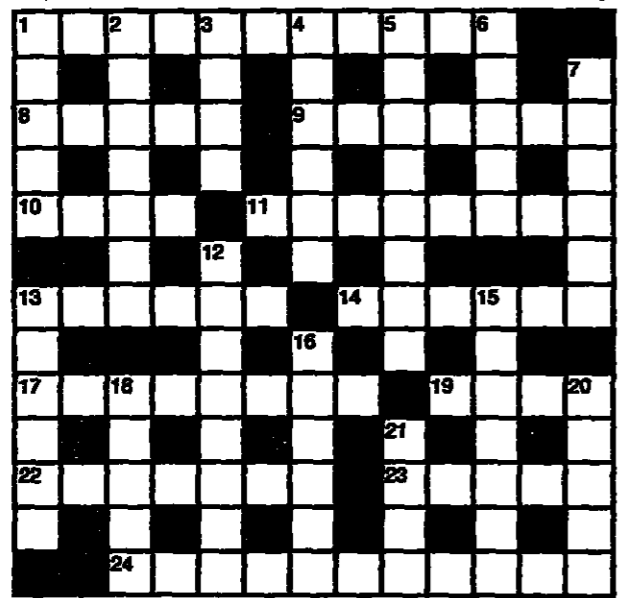
The RFU had yet to receive notification from France last night, but Clive Woodward, the England coach, who suspended Martin Johnson for one match after a punching incident during the game with New Zealand at Old Trafford last November, will review the video and take any action that he considers necessary.

In 1996, Leonard, the Harlequins prop, was cited by the Scottish Rugby Union for a punching incident involving Pugh Wainwright, the Scotland back-row forward, during the Calcutta Cup match at Murrayfield. The case was

exhorted to one last effort but the game slipped beyond him and England with a final, freakish twist — a ball that pitched and scuttled past off stump at ankle height slipping through Russell's legs and hitting the parked, fielding helmets for a penalty of five runs. There was to be no coming back from that.

Forward search, page 49  
Cardiff's triumph, page 49

### TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1325

- ACROSS**  
1 Timer, has two notes (6,5)  
3 An accent, four-minim note (5)  
9 Nauseous; irritable (7)  
10 Temptation (4)  
11 New Eur. republic, 1993 (8)  
13 Pierre Auguste —, Impressionist (6)  
14 A seething automaton (6)  
17 Outdoor cooked meal (8)  
19 Feudal land (4)  
22 Easily broken (7)  
23 Bestow (5)  
24 Fantasy, pretence (4-7)
- DOWN**  
1 Political plotters' group (5)  
2 NCO's stripe shape (7)  
3 Cattle (4)  
4 Make shoes; a road stone (6)  
5 Forgetfulness; Time's *alma* for it (Trilux) (8)  
6 Sales booth (5)  
7 Run away (6)  
12 Companion, helper (8)  
13 Snub (6)  
15 Group of battalions (7)  
16 Excellent, grand (6)  
18 Sphere, kingdom (5)  
20 Evade, misrepresent (issue); a sweet (5)  
21 Become boring; shroud (4)

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## Wasted chance angers Atherton

FROM ALAN LEE

FOUR years ago, Michael Atherton sat in a dining-room at the Queen's Park Oval and tried to explain how England had been bowled out for 46. Yesterday, in the same crowded room, he coped concisely with the puzzle of how his team had once more conjured defeat when it seemed easier to win. "We have only ourselves to blame," the captain said.

Atherton kept his eyes hidden behind sunglasses and his face rarely betrayed his emotions. There was anger beneath the polished veneer, though, and deep disappointment that a team whose experience and resilience he had been happy to advertise had failed to cope with the expectation of victory.

Atherton and the team management had remained confident and upbeat throughout the first three

days of this game. On Sunday evening, the anxiety lines were evident as the chance to nail the game had drifted away. Yesterday, the worst fears were realised.

Neither Atherton nor David Lloyd, the coach, attempted to disguise their frustration over the profligacy of

their new-ball bowlers. Angus Fraser, of course, was exempted after his 11 wickets in the game. "He bowled outstandingly well and it is extremely unfortunate for him to end up on the losing side," Atherton said. But as for the miscreants, Headley and Caddick? "They bowled too short. We



Atherton, left, and Hussain appear stunned by defeat

had talked a lot about bowling a good length on this pitch but they didn't do it."

Atherton continued: "Considering the position we were in after three days it was a game we expected to win. The collapse on the fourth morning was disappointing, but I felt 270 or 280 should still give us enough of a cushion to win the game. In a Test as tense and close as this, there are a lot of 'if-onlys', too many for me to go through. But the bottom line is that we have to blame ourselves for what happened."

Atherton thought that the pitch bounced too unevenly for Test cricket. "But, having said that, it produced an outstanding game," he said.

Brian Lara, the West Indies captain, said that Carl Hooper's innings was "the best I have ever seen him play". He added: "I always felt we would win as long as he was batting."

**FULL SCOREBOARD FROM PORT OF SPAIN**

<b>ENGLAND: First Innings</b> M A Atherton c Lara b Ambrose 11 (65min, 52 balls, 1 four) A J Stewart b b Benjamin (171min, 126 balls, 7 fours) J P Crawley c S C Williams (145min, 100 balls, 1 four) N Hussain not out 61 (23min, 22 balls) G P Thorpe c D Williams b Hooper 6 (22min, 19 balls, 1 four) A J Hogg not out 2 (1min, 2 balls) YR C Russell c S C Williams b McLean (85min, 52 balls, 1 four) A R Caddick b b Walsh (94min, 23 balls, 1 four) D W Headley c D Williams b Ambrose 11 (71min, 67 balls, 1 four) A R C Fraser c D Williams b Benjamin 17 (82min, 63 balls, 1 four) P C R Tunell c Lara b Benjamin 0 (11min, 1 ball) Extras (b 5, lb 10, nb 13) 29 Total (108 overs, 428min) 224 FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-87, 3-105, 4-174, 5-124, 6-126, 7-143, 8-172, 9-214. BOWLING: Walsh 27-5-1, Ambrose 26-16-53-3, McLean 19-7-29-1, Benjamin 24-5-63-3, Hooper 9-3-14-1, Adams 3-0-0-0 <b>WEST INDIES: First Innings</b> S L Campbell c Russell b Headley 1 (42min, 43 balls)	<b>ENGLAND: Second Innings</b> M A Atherton b Walsh 31 (131min, 95 balls, 5 fours) A J Stewart c Hooper b McLean 78 (237min, 154 balls, 7 fours) J P Crawley b b McLean 22 (88min, 73 balls) N Hussain c and b Walsh 23 (132min, 62 balls, 1 four)	<b>WEST INDIES: Second Innings</b> G P Thorpe c Lara b Walsh 39 (155min, 108 balls, 5 fours) A J Hogg not out 12 (45min, 23 balls, 1 four) YR C Russell b b Ambrose 8 (20min, 14 balls) A R Caddick c D Williams b Ambrose 0 (11min, 7 balls) D W Headley not out 0 (33min, 18 balls, 1 four) A R C Fraser c Hooper b Ambrose 4 (19min, 11 balls) P C R Tunell c D Williams b Ambrose 4 (13min, 12 balls) Extras (b 5, lb 15, w 1, nb 11) 32 Total (94.5 overs, 428min) 258 FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-143, 3-148, 4-202, 5-229, 6-226, 7-228, 8-239, 9-246. BOWLING: Benjamin 15-3-40-0, McLean 12-1-46-2, Hooper 19-5-32-5, Walsh 28-6-61-3, Fraser 19-8-33-4. <b>WEST INDIES: Second Innings</b> S L Campbell c Stewart b Headley 10 (14min, 12 balls, 2 fours) P C Russell c Crawley b Fraser 62 (117min, 120 balls, 11 fours) YR C Russell c Stewart b Fraser 17 (87min, 52 balls, 3 fours) A J Hogg not out 0 (2min, 10 balls) A R Caddick c Thorpe b Tunell 0 (34min, 293 balls, 1 four) A C Adams c Stewart b Fraser 2 (8min, 7 balls) N Hussain c Thorpe b Headley 65 (217min, 172 balls, 7 fours)	<b>C E L Ambrose c Russell b Headley 1 (7min, 6 balls) K C G Benjamin not out 6 (23min, 16 balls) Extras (b 10, lb 8, nb 7) 25 Total (7 wks, 98.2 overs, 437min) 262 FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10 (S C Williams 0, 2-26 (S C Williams 0), 3-150 (Hooper 2), 4-121 (Hooper 2), 5-154 (Hooper 2), 6-253 (Hooper 7), 7-259 (Hooper 8). BOWLING: Headley 18-9-28-3 (nb 3, 12 runs; 5-0-30-1, 3-1-11-0, 4-0-12-0, 4-1-15-0), Caddick 16-2-28-0 (nb 3, 9 runs; 8-1-28-0, 2-0-12-0, 4-1-7-0, 2-0-11-0), Tunell 34-2-6-6-1 (nb 2, 8 runs; 10-4-24-0, 2-1-1-0, 1-5-20-1, 2-0-0-0, 6-2-0-19-0), Fraser 27-9-67-3 (4 runs; 7-2-18-0, 7-2-12-0, 5-5-10-0, 4-1-10-0, 1-0-2-0), Hogg 6-0-12-0 (1 four; 2-0-4-0, 3-0-8-0). Match awarded: C L Hooper (Adjutant-General, A G Garmouth). Umpires: S A Budgeon and S Venkataraghavan (India). Third umpire: C G Cummins. Match referee: B N Jarman (Australia). SERIES DETAILS: First Test (4 days): Match drawn TESTS TO COME: Third (Port of Spain): February 13-17, Fourth (Georgetown): February 27-March 3, Fifth (Bridgetown): March 12-16, Sixth (St John's): March 20-24. Compiled by Bill Frith</b>
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